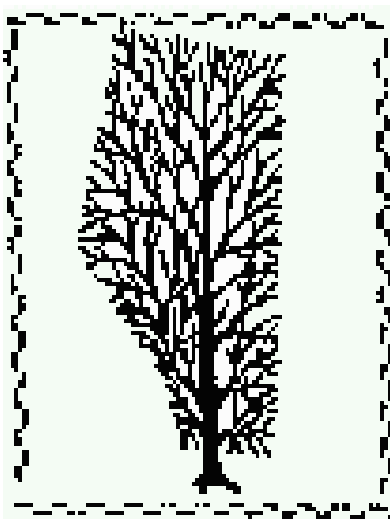


**YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS**  
**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
**Lethbridge and District Branch**  
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## Editor's Corner



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

### Lethbridge A.G.S. Branch Hours

Library Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 1:30-4:30 p.m. Meetings are 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. September through May. Visitors Welcome! Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request. See our web site at:

<http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net/>

**Address: 1:28; 909 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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	Doug Mcleod
Vice President	Susan Haga
Treasurer	Pat Barry
Secretary	Alma Berridge
Past President	Nestor Martinez
Membership	Pat Barry

#### BRANCH COMMITTEE

B. M. & D.	Eleanor McMurchy
Cemetery	Eleanor McMurchy
Librarian	Win Evans
Publicity	Win Evans
Researchers	Eleanor McMurchy
Computer	Doug McLeod
Newsletter Editor	Susan Haga
Programs	Susan Haga
Web Master	Doug Mcleod
Past Presidents	Nestor Martinez, Susan Haga,
Advisory Group	E. McMurchy, Pat Barry, Phyllis Burnett & Win Evans

## President's Message

Welcome back everyone. Hope you had a good summer and were able to do some family research. We had a great International dinner, with good food, good conversation, and great after dinner stories. Thanks Lauren and Winn for all your work on this. Thanks Belinda for the ghostly stories.

The 40th Anniversary committee is working hard on a May event. The people developing the workshop in Jun are moving ahead with their plans. Details on both events will be forth coming in the near future.

The summer holidays are done – Halloween is done – is our Branch done? That's a bit dramatic, however, as I have stated many times over the past 18 months or so, the Branch must elect a new executive at the 2017 Branch AGM on the 16th of Feb. We need a President, Vice President, Secretary, and a Treasurer. The treasurer also looks after the membership. We really need an executive in place to handle anything in regards to our Casino.

As of now I have two people who have said they are interested. I hope more people will volunteer. I know there are a few who do a lot behind the scene, or have held these branch positions before. I do not expect them to do it again unless they want to. This is your Branch – Please support it. Please read the 'Extract from the AGS Bylaws' in this newsletter, to see what would happen if we don't have an executive.

In closing I would like to very much thank all the volunteers for your continued efforts over the last year. Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! President, Doug Mcleod

### Monthly Meetings

On October 22 we held our Annual International Dinner and Belinda Crowson spoke on Ghost Stories and Legends of Lethbridge. Lots of great international pot luck dishes were brought and enjoyed by all in attendance. On Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup> David Tyler from the Raymond Family History Center came and gave a presentation on Austria/Hungary which was most informative and was well attended. On January 19<sup>th</sup> we will be attending Signs of the Times with Trish Purkis at the Galt Museum at 7 p.m. in the Learning Studio Room. February 16<sup>th</sup> will be our Annual General Meeting with our Election for the new Executive. Please be willing to put your name forward for this great opportunity to serve our Branch.

## Extract from the AGS Bylaws

### 7.2 Dormancy

7.2. In the event that any Branch shall fail to have in place an Executive Committee within six months after the time it is required to have its Annual General Meeting the Branch shall be deemed dormant.

7.2.2 In the event that any Branch shall fail to have an Executive Committee in place following the Annual General Meeting, all of the previously elected officers of the Branch may continue to act notwithstanding that their terms of office have expired.

7.2.3 In the event that a Branch fails to elect a President and Vice-President at an Annual General Meeting and is in effect without an Executive, the Board will delegate a temporary trustee until such time as a Branch Executive is installed. Any member of the Branch Executive may be selected as the trustee, even if their term has expired.

7.2.4 The progress of the Branch must be reviewed every six months by the Board.

7.2.5 Within 30 days of its becoming dormant an officer of the Branch shall pay all its legal debts and forward to the Secretary of the Society all records, accounts and files of the Branch.

### 7.3 Dissolution

7.3.1 Failing any timely resumption of a Branch Executive, the Board may move to dissolve the Branch at a Special Meeting of the Branch.

7.3.2 Notwithstanding anything in 7.3 above, dissolution cannot take place until the Branch has been dormant for at least one year, and:

- shall, within 30 days of dissolution, pay all its legal debts properly incurred prior to the dissolution

- shall, within 30 days of the dissolution, forward to the Vice President of Finance of the Society all monetary assets and records of any kind of the Branch

- the Board shall hold the assets of a dissolved Branch in a segregated trust account for a period of five years after the dissolution of the Branch. Such monies shall be held for start up expenses, if and when the Branch reactivates in that time.

- In the event that the Branch is not reactivated within the five year period such monies shall revert to the Society.

- Assets, other than monetary assets, will be redistributed at the discretion of the Board to other Branch libraries or community libraries, museums or archives after a period of at least five years from the date of dissolution.

### Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

Winter Hours: The Lethbridge Family History Center Hours: Monday 9-5 p.m., Tuesdays-Thursdays 9-9 p.m. closed Fridays, and Saturdays 9-1 p.m. We will close after Saturday, December 10 and re-open January 9<sup>th</sup>.

### Lethbridge Family History Center--Major Collections

#### Canada

- Index to passenger lists of ships into Halifax and Quebec 1865-1900
- Index Upper Canada Marriage Bonds (film) 1803-1845
- Soundex Border Crossings 1895-1954—microfilms of border crossing records from Canada into the US 1895-1954.
- Federal Census for all Provinces in Canada --1851—complete for all Provinces --1861—complete for all Provinces --1871—complete except for Quebec --1881—complete except for Quebec --1891—complete except for Quebec --1901—complete for all Provinces

#### • Ontario

- Microfilm of certificates and Index
- Marriages
  - Marriages 1873-1913 (part of)
  - Marriage-Bonds--1803-1845, 1865— Films
  - Marriage Index 1873-1912
  - Early Marriage Records 1801-1848—Film
  - Co. Marriage Registry 1858-1869--Book
- Births
  - Births 1869-1899
  - Birth Indexes 1869-1922
  - Delayed Reg. of Births 1860-1899
- Deaths
  - Deaths (Reg. & Index) 1869-1924
  - Deaths 1869-1923 (part of)

Several 1800s County Maps—includes histories  
Land Records Index—Microfilm  
Federal census 1851, 1861, 1871, 1881, 1891  
Microfiche for the following cemeteries:

- Trinity Lutheran Cemetery, Huron County
- St Ambrose Roman Catholic Cemetery, Huron County
- Abandoned Pres. Cemetery, Wroxeter, Ont.

- Anglican Cemetery Howick Twp.
  - Hayden Methodist Cemetery, Howick Twp.
  - Baptist Abandoned Pioneer Cemetery, Howick Twp
  - Abandoned Old Hunter Cem, Howick Twp.
  - Church of Annunciation Cemetery, Frontenac, Ontario.
- Lanark County Probate Record 1871-1902
  - Ontario Surrogate Court 1837-1902 Index 1848-1968
- **Nova Scotia**
    - County Histories—book
    - Nova Scotia Immigrants to 1867—book
    - Fed Census 1851, 1861, 1881 and 1901
- **New Brunswick**
    - Vital Statistics from N.B. Newspapers 1784-1878—books
    - Fed Census 1851, 1861, 1891 and 1901
- **Quebec**
    - Re Cueil De Genealogies—Gazetteer
    - Beauce-Dorchester-Frontenac 1625-1946 (11 volumes)
    - Genealogies-Montmagny, L'islet, Bellechasse (16 volumes)
    - Tanquay's Dictionnaire Genealogique --(109 fiche)
    - Federal Census 1851, 1861, 1901
    - Loiselle Index to Quebec Marriages (11 microfilms)
    - 1881 Census for Lotbiniere Co., Montreal City, Argenteuil Co, Pontiac Co.
    - 1891 Census Argenteuil Dist., Yamaska District.

## **United Kingdom**

### **England**

- England and Wales: Births, Marriages, Death Fiche Indexes
  - Births 1837-1958
  - Marriages 1837-1959
  - Deaths 1837-1950
- Boyds Marr Ind 1538-1837 (7 microfilms)
- English Probate Indexes
- 1891 Census England, Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man
- 1881 Census England, Scotland, Wales, Channel Islands, Isle of Man,--microfiche—county indexed 5 ways.
- (1) by surname (2) by birthplace (3) by census place (4) as enumerated (5) list of ships list of institutions, miscellaneous
- 1851 Census Index for Warwickshire
- 1841-1881 Census Street Index
- Calendar of Wills 1858-1876
- Marr License Index Vicar Gen. 1660-1921
- Index Marriage License (Faculty Office) 1632-1955

## **Scotland**

- Civil Registration microfilm index
  - Births 1855-1955
  - Marriages 1855-1956
  - Deaths 1855-1956

## **Ireland**

- Civil Registration microfilm index
- Births 1864-1959
- Marriages 1864-1959
- Deaths 1864-1959
- Irish Marr License films Index 1623-1866
- Householders microfilm index
- Irish Passenger lists 1847-1871—book
- Irish landowners 1876—book

## **Europe**

- Hamburg Germany Passenger list Indexes 1855-1934
- Gazetteer for Prussia (13 volumes)
- Large Divisional Maps of Poland
- 30 general reference books for Germany
- Parish Record Grassard Co., Sweden
- Parish Register Jerichow, Sachsen, Germany

## **L.D.S. Records**

- Alberta Ward Records
- Crossing the Ocean Index 1840-1925
- 1966 Series 4 Generation Sheets
- LDS Census 1914-1920, 1925, 1930, 1935
- LDS Immigration from England 1875-1913
- Church Memberships 1830-1848 (95 fiche)
- Archive Records—Family Group Sheets on Microfiche
- History of the Church on Microfiche
- Some Utah Ward Records
- Some English Branch Records
- Mormon Pioneers Crossing the Plains

## **United States**

- Accelerated Indexes System (searches 1-7A) Microfiche
- Surname Index of Tax Lists and Census Records for the US
- SSDI (on Familysearch.org)
- Passenger & Immigration Lists Ind. (15 Vols.)
- Numerous films and 144 general reference books and 62 books for various states.
- Film 1900 Federal Census Missouri
- Film 1880 Census Ogle Co., Illinois
- Film 1880 Census Stephenson Co., Illinois
- Film 1880 Census Boone Co., Illinois
- Enumeration Districts 1880 Census (film)
- Army Register, Ohio Volunteers, Civil War 1861-1865 (fiche)
- Roster of Ohio Soldiers in Civil War 1861-1866, 1846-1848 (fiche)

## Victoria, Australia Microfiche Index

- Births 1853-1895
  - Marriages 1853-1895
  - Death 1853-1895
  - Early Church Records 1828-1844
  - Index to Early Church Births, Marriages and Deaths 1853-1895 Victoria, Australia
- (Taken from Mary's Genealogy Treasures)

## Researching Lutheran Ancestors

While the starting principle of Lutheranism is that salvation comes from "faith not works," genealogists with Lutheran ancestors can be thankful their forebears worked hard at producing loads of helpful records.

Nonreligious events helped Luther's cause. Many rulers of small German states seized upon religious discord as a path to greater independence from the Catholic-dominated Holy Roman Empire. Luther also used the newly invented printing press to widely disseminate his views.

Within a few decades, much of central and northern Germany had turned Lutheran. The faith soon gained a foothold in Scandinavia, where national Lutheran churches were established by the early 1600s. Small Lutheran minorities existed across Europe from the British Isles to Eastern Europe.

In the German states, subjects were to follow the religion of their ruler. The Peace of Augsburg allowed Lutheranism as a choice as early as 1555. The reality was more complicated, due to the existence of other Protestant groups such as the Reformed church.

During the early 1800s, the Kingdom of Prussia forcibly united Lutheran and Reformed worshippers under the name of Evangelical. Congregations that dissented from this union became known as the "Old Lutherans."

In America, Dutch Lutherans helped to populate New Netherland (today's New York) in the 1620's, though most people in this colony were Reformed but the first New World settlement with a Lutheran majority was the New Sweden colony in the Delaware River region of what's now Pennsylvania, Delaware and New Jersey.

Lutherans made up the most prominent religious group among the large population of 18<sup>th</sup>-century German speaking immigrants, most whom settled in the Mid-Atlantic States. In the 1800s, many more German Lutherans came to America and settled the Midwestern territories and states. Joining them increasingly were Lutheran Swedes, Danes, Norwegians and Finns. Some Eastern European Lutherans, mostly of German heritage, also came from areas of Russia and Ukraine.

Lutherans themselves have splintered into smaller denominations. Around the world, some 250 groups have a total membership estimated at 73 million. Lutheran congregations in America since the mid-1700s have joined in larger church bodies called "synods," which are officiated by bishops. Lutheran denominations run the gamut in both polity and politics: some are hierarchical and others more congregational. Records are kept on the congregational level, but denominational archives in many cases have microfilmed copies.

Today in the United States, the largest Lutheran denomination is the moderate-to-liberal Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, with about 4.2 million members. The ultraconservative Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod is the second-largest with about 2.5 million members.

Records generated by and about Lutherans abound. Be aware that many of the records in the 1700s and 1800s are written in the language of the Lutheran immigrant group (and just to confuse you further, they often use an archaic cursive script). As a rule of thumb, city churches began recording in English earlier than in countryside areas, which often were settled by ethnically distinct groups. In many cases, you'll access records on Family History Library microfilms or by contacting the church or on administrative archives. But also check the subscription genealogy website Archives.com. (as they have been digitized and indexed the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's 1,000 reels of microfilm) containing millions of baptisms, confirmations, marriage and funeral records. The parish register ledger books document Lutheran congregations throughout the United States from 1793 to 1940.

Among the best records for Lutheran genealogical research:

**Baptism:** Lutheran groups practice infant baptism. Nearly all congregations keep registers listing the names of the child, parents and sponsors (the "godparents," who often are close relatives or friends), as well as dates of birth and baptism. Occasionally, you'll find additional notations, such as the illegitimacy of the child or maiden name of the mother. Many 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century registers have been abstracted (and some have been published), but because of the potential for transcription errors, your best bet whenever possible is to access the original.

**Marriage:** Records show the date of the marriage, couple's names and sometimes their residences before marriage. Some also give the names of the bride's and groom's parents. Because many American Lutheran congregations shared ministers who "rode a circuit," it's not uncommon to find several churches' marriages in the records of whatever congregation was considered the "seat" of the multi-congregation parish at the time. It's

important to learn the history of the congregation and what churches it shared a minister with.

**Burials:** Relatively fewer congregations kept registers of those its ministers buried, but some do exist. The burial register usually recounts the funerals performed by that church's minister, and the deceased wasn't always a church member. Those listed might have been of a different denomination and be buried in a different cemetery from church members.

**Confirmations:** Lutheran children were "confirmed" into the faith during their teens. These records generally list only the names of those confirmed though some registers also give the 'confirmands' ages and names of their fathers. Researchers most often use these when there's a gap in the baptismal register.

### Union Churches

While Lutheranism has the cachet as the first breakaway Christian group to stick, further splintering follow in short order. Especially among German-speaking US immigrants, many early congregations share church buildings in what were called "union churches," some of which didn't keep their records distinct. Here's the lowdown on two significant groups:

The religion known simply as "Reformed" was nurtured in German Switzerland by Ulrich Zwingli and in French Switzerland by John Calvin. It became established in some German states and the Netherlands (Calvin's teaching also led to Presbyterianism in Scotland), and was the second largest religious group among 18<sup>th</sup>-century German-speaking US immigrants. Reformed churches' "congregational" polity—in which their higher church bodies "speak to them, not for them"—resulted in less-standardized record-keeping and many private pastoral registers of baptisms and marriages. The German Reformed Congregations in the United States joined with Evangelicals in the 1930's and eventually became the United Church of Christ. Most records are on the congregational level but the Evangelical and Reformed Historical Society archives [www.erhs.info/Home.html](http://www.erhs.info/Home.html) in Lancaster, Pa., has many historical materials.

The Moravian Church (the denomination formerly known as Unitas Fratrum or Unity of Brethren) dates to the teaching of Jan Hus, who was burned at the stake as a heretic in 1415. In the 1740's, Moravians founded Bethlehem, Pa, as their headquarters, and had a number of congregations in Mid Atlantic and Southern States in Colonial times. They carefully kept congregational diaries, detailed memories of members and other records are popular sources for researchers with ancestors in or near Moravian settlements. The Moravian Archives is in Bethlehem [www.moravianchurcharchives.org](http://www.moravianchurcharchives.org)

### Records at a Glance

#### Baptisms:

**Research Tip:** Nearly all congregations kept registers of this excellent birth record substitute. Most of the earliest (1700's) have been published; many from the 19<sup>th</sup> century have been abstracted; and FamilySearch has microfilmed many of the originals. Also check the collection of the digitized Lutheran records on Archives.com.

#### Marriages:

**Research Tip:** These records sometimes include names of the couple's parents as well as their residences. In addition to records kept by individual congregations, pastors sometimes kept their own registers.

### Congregational Histories

#### Research Tip:

Most congregations have celebrated landmark anniversaries with historical publications ranging from pamphlets to hardbound books. These often are chock-full of names and photos of people from the church's days gone by.

#### Communions and Membership Lists:

Membership in Lutheran congregations was far more fluid in the first centuries of US settlement than it is today. Churches didn't frequently list their members; however, most congregations have at least a few preserved lists showing the names of those who communed and the date of the communion, usually grouped by family.

**Financial and Minutes:** Few congregations have preserved the earliest books showing the church's accounting of funds. Likewise, minutes of their governing councils often don't exist, but the rare ones that do offer keen insights into the running of the congregation.

#### Congregational and Synodical Histories:

Lutherans loved to write histories, both of their congregations and the synods to which they belonged. Profiles of individual churches can be genealogical gold mines: They often include some of the pastoral records mentioned above and give information about the church's member families throughout its history.

**Newspapers:** Some Lutheran synods published newspapers, primarily during the 19<sup>th</sup> Century that can serve as an alternate source for obituaries of church members. You also can glean a thick slice of life about the congregants during the time period. Find names and locations of these titles by entering Lutheran as a keyword in the Chronicling America <[chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles](http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/search/titles)> newspaper directory.

Martin Luther is supposed to have nailed his 95 theses to the church door in Wittenberg, hoping the Catholic Church would reform itself. Instead, a religion bearing his name was founded—and the centuries of documents this church generated may be the key to nailing down your Lutheran heritage. (By James Beidler—FamilyTree Magazine July/Aug —2012—pages 56-59)

## 7 Places to Find Free Genealogy Courses

A well structured genealogy course or helpful webinar that covers modern research methods can open your eyes to a whole new world of possibilities. Even the savviest family historians stand to learn something new from a knowledgeable teacher and quality materials. This is especially true if you're in need of some inspiration, a new perspective in your research or help on a specific topic.

Luckily, there are many courses and webinars online for genealogists today—and quite a few are free to access. Here are some that come highly recommended.

### YouTube

([https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=genealogy+how-to](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=genealogy+how-to)): You might be surprised by how many brilliant online tutorials, courses and quick tips on family history can be found on YouTube. A simple search for “genealogy how-to: offers thousands of results and includes offerings from top experts, genealogy research sites and government repositories—including videos from the US National Archives. So whether you're looking for some help on conducting German genealogy ([https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=genealogy+german](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=genealogy+german)) or are in need of some family history basics ([https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=genealogy+basics](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=genealogy+basics)), this is a great place to start.

### FamilySearch Learning Center

(<https://familysearch.org/learningcenter/home.html>) There is a reason FamilySearch tops nearly every list we create here on Family History Daily—they offer the most extensive free genealogy site in the world. Their learning center is no less impressive. With a massive selection of quality courses on nearly every topic and location imaginable, you're certain to find something of interest.

### Brigham Young University Independent Study

(<http://is.byu.edu/site/courses/free.cfm>): BYU offers a variety of courses on family history topics that are completely free to the public and available online. These offerings include classes on introductory genealogy, writing your family history and several regional tutorials.

### UK National Archives Family History

(<http://media.nationalarchives.gov.uk/index.php/category/family-history/>): From army musters to medieval record research, the UK National Archives has many media offerings for genealogists—and they're all free.

### Ancestry.com Learning Center

([http://www.ancestry.com/cs/Satellite?childpageame=USLearningCenter%2FLearning\\_C%2FPageDefault&pagename=LearningWrapper&cid=1265124509035](http://www.ancestry.com/cs/Satellite?childpageame=USLearningCenter%2FLearning_C%2FPageDefault&pagename=LearningWrapper&cid=1265124509035)): Ancestry does offer a variety of helpful freebies.

(<http://familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-resources/ancestry.com-offers-600-free-searchable-collections/>), including a vast learning center. Some of the webinars and resources place a focus on finding records on Ancestry.com, but are still very helpful for general research. (<http://blog.eogn.com/2015/04/23/ancestry-launches-researchers/>) Also Ancestry is now offering the Ancestry Academy (<https://academy.ancestry-academy-educational-video-courses-for-family-history-researchers/>) that Ancestry is now offering the Ancestry Academy

([https://academy.ancestry.com/academy?o\\_xid=57463&o\\_lid=57463&o\\_sch=Social](https://academy.ancestry.com/academy?o_xid=57463&o_lid=57463&o_sch=Social)) a special selection of helpful in-depth video courses. Courses pertaining to Ancestry owned sites and products are free for any registered member (even without a paid subscription), while others are only available to Academy subscribers, or those with the World Explorer Plus membership. See below: (<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2015/04/16/introducing-ancestry-academy/>).

### RootsMOOC-Intro to Genealogy and Family History Research

(<https://www.canvas.net/browse/reynoldslibrary/courses/intro-to-genealogy>): This open online course is offered by experts from the State Library of North Carolina and provides a complete introduction to genealogy research. Despite this course's run dates it seems you can register and complete course work at any time while it is open-including the option to take part in discussions with fellow class members.

### National Genealogical Society

([http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/educational\\_courses/online\\_courses/Family\\_history\\_skills](http://www.ngsgenealogy.org/cs/educational_courses/online_courses/Family_history_skills)): If you're a member of the NGS you can take their intro level Family History Skills course free online. They also offer a selection of in-depth online course at a reduced rate to members. If you do not have a membership you may want to consider one. The annual fee is \$65 for an individual and includes many benefits.

### **Family History Daily**

(<http://familyhistorydaily.com/learn>) Offers a popular and affordable, self-paced genealogy course that can help you with your research?

In the course you will learn to:

- access high-quality free genealogy sites
- break down frustrating brick walls
- use Google in new ways for gen. research
- track down elusive ancestors
- find and use a variety of online gen. tools
- research family mysteries
- trace your overseas ancestors

Learn easily online with our one-of-a-kind lessons, step-by-step guides, helpful hands-on-activities, fun challenges and engaging discussions.

([www.familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-resources/7places-to-find-free-genealogy-coursesand-webinars-online/](http://www.familyhistorydaily.com/genealogy-resources/7places-to-find-free-genealogy-coursesand-webinars-online/))

### **Ten Reasons to Join a Local Genealogy Society—Genealogy in Community**

“But my ancestors are not from this area, so why should I join the local genealogical society?”

Eventually, someone convinced me to attend a meeting of the local society. Little did I know that my life as a genealogist would never be the same so I found a group of passionate family historians who were eager to share their experiences and knowledge and it did not matter that our ancestors were from different parts of the world.

So why, you ask, did a simple genealogical society membership impact my life as a genealogist? Here are ten reasons:

#### **1. I Was No Longer Alone**

Until I discovered the network of local genealogists, I was researching within a vacuum. I had no idea there were more than 300 genealogists within a few miles of my home. I could now share my passion with other like individuals. More important, I plugged into a network that alerted me to the latest products, news, and educational opportunities locally and nationwide.

#### **2. Learned New Research Skills**

The guest speakers at monthly meetings and annual workshops taught me how to prepare a research plan, how to evaluate evidence, and techniques to discover new sources.

#### **3. I Learned How to Evaluate Genealogical Software**

One of the most frustrating decisions for a genealogist is deciding upon the right software for specific needs. Our society created a Computer Interest Group and sponsored educational seminars and hands-on-learning workshops. Without their guidance and instruction, I would have floundered within the world of computer genealogy.

#### **4. I Improved My Skills in Reading Old Handwriting**

My personal research included transcribing old documents, but until I became involved in a society project, I didn't realize that my skills were elementary.

#### **5. I Learned From Other Members**

Our society encouraged members to share their latest breakthrough or discovery at our local meetings. This sharing was not only fun, but gave me ideas on how to solve my own brick wall research problems.

#### **6. I Gained An Appreciation of Other Local Societies**

While abstracting or indexing records, I realized that volunteers in other areas of the country might be indexing some records pertinent to my own ancestry. Other genealogists helping one another in the society in this manner is one of the most significant gifts we receive within this unique hobby.

#### **7. I Gained Experience in Using a New Record Type**

I volunteered to be the “society genealogist” which meant I answered research inquiries. Many of the questions could be answered through city directory research. Since my ancestors were mostly farmers, I did not have experience with this record type. Had I not volunteered to answer the society's mail, I may never have learned the value of directories.

#### **8. I Developed Leadership Skills**

As an active and involved member, you will ultimately be given opportunities to participate in the leadership of the organization. While serving on committees and board member positions, I developed skills that would be valuable in future provincial/state and national leadership roles.

#### **9. I Did Not Find a Cousin, But Someone Else Did**

I'm always amazed at the odd connections that are made at meetings. For example, someone will casually mention they are researching the Watson family in Kentucky. Another member will answer that they are too. After comparing notes, they discover they are related six generations back into time. Believe me it happens more often than you may think. Members will also find others researching the same geographical area and can help each other with resources, etc.

#### **10. I Developed Lifelong Friendships**

Common interests create friendships, and I have gathered many through genealogical connections. Can you imagine what it might be like if you didn't have an understanding genealogical friend to call when you make a major discovery or solve the problem you've been working on for several years?



## How to Find a Genealogical Society

There are hundreds of genealogical societies in the United States. To find one near you, visit the Society Hall developed by Ancestry.com (also found on Familysearch.org) and the Federation of Genealogical Societies. The Society Hall is an excellent place to begin your search, with contact information on over 500 societies. The Society Hall also features a Calendar of Events arranged chronologically. There may be a genealogical activity planned in your area that you can attend, or one on your vacation route.

The Historical and Genealogical Society Pages, arranged geographically, are also an excellent resource for locating a society near you. Cyndi's List has over 3,000 links to societies and groups. The list is indexed alphabetically by the name of the society, rather than geographically. The fourth edition (1999) of The Genealogist's Address Book by Elizabeth Petty Bentley gives contact information on over 25,000 libraries and repositories, including genealogical societies.

The Federation of Genealogical Societies also has a Guide for the Organization and Management of Genealogical Societies. It has advice on how to start a society and keep it running (try and Google the area that you are interested in finding a genealogical society to join.)

## Beyond the Local Society

The personal benefits of joining a local society are quite different than reasons to join an out-of-state/province or other types of genealogical organizations. When you cannot attend local meetings, the obvious benefit is receiving the society's publications. One of the primary goals of local societies is to index, abstract, or transcribe local records and publish the results in their journals and/or online. (At [www.genealogy.com/articles/research/74\\_Kathy.html](http://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/74_Kathy.html) by Kathleen W. Hinckley)

## 10 Free Canadian Genealogy Websites

Genealogy is all about names, events and dates. All the websites listed below are free and cover a variety of genealogical subjects in Canada.

### TONI (<https://www.ogs.on.ca/toni.php>)

The free database of the Ontario Genealogical Society, called The Ontario Name Index (TONI), contains more than 3 million names and is always growing. All that is required is to type in the search box the first name and surname, and where your family came from. Most of the records provided are taken from gravestones and cemeteries but there is a table which tells you where the record came from for the ease of use.

## Peel's Prairie Provinces

<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html>

The Prairie Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba are represented by 7,500 digitized books, over 66,000 newspaper issues (4.8 million articles) 16,000 postcards, and 1,000 maps. You can search all of these holdings if you have ancestors who emigrated out west. Many items date back to the earliest days of exploration in the region, and include a vast range of material dealing with every aspect of the settlement and development of the Canadian West.

## Or Roots (<http://ourroots.ca>)

Have you ever wondered where you could find books on the local history of Canada? This may just be the site you have been looking for, as it has dozens of digitized local history books. Just put your location in the search box and see what you can find.

## OurOntario (<http://ourontario.ca>)

If you want to research newspapers in Ontario, this is the spot for you. They are also expanding into the US with web pages covering Illinois and Michigan right now, but they do have plans about going global in the future. Presently, you can search newspapers from all over Ontario.

## Automatic Genealogy

(<http://automatedgenealogy.com>)

This site has been around for a number of years, but it is still useful in searching 1851, 1901, and 1911 Canadian census, and the 1906 Prairie Provinces Census.

## Canadian Virtual War Memorial (CVWM)

(<http://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/memorials/canadian-virtual-war-memorial>)

This is a registry of more than 118,000 Canadians who have given their lives serving Canada or the UK. It was established to allow all Canadians the opportunity to honor and remember their sacrifices.

## Home Children

This is a major immigrant group, especially to Ontario, because between 1869 to early 1930's, 100.00 British, Scottish and Irish children came to Canada to work as farm laborers, or in the case of girls, as domestics, and they were called Home Children.

## The Canadian County Atlas Digital Program

(<http://digital.library.mcgill.ca/countyatlas/>) This project was started by McGill University in Montreal in 1998 and mainly covers Ontario. These are property owners who appeared on the township atlases.

### **Passenger List Indexing Project**

(<http://members.shaw.ca/nanimo.fhs/>)

This project was carried out by the Nanaimo Family Society of British Columbia and they have recorded 757,749 passengers from 31 Jul 1903 to 13 Oct 1910 going to Montreal and Quebec City. Many people who eventually ended up in the United States came from the old country on these ships, a website which is well worth research for those hard to find ancestors.

**Library and Archives Canada** (<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx>)

The official archives of Canada includes a huge wealth of information and searchable databases—including marriage, census, land, and military records, directories, additional resources, guides and much more. Find the ancestor search here.

(<http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/search/Pages/ancestors-search.aspx>)

(From Elizabeth Lapoint article found on Family History Daily.com)

### **Best Continental European Websites**

Whether your ancestors lived in Sweden, Germany, the Netherlands or Russia, these websites can help you learn more about your mainland European roots.

- **ArkivDigital \$**

Browse some 48 million Swedish historical documents, including all-important church records plus court records and estate inventories (included in Ancestry.com, also free at the Family History Centers found under the Family History Portal icon).

- **Danish Demographic Database**

Explore Danish censuses from 1787 on, emigration records on nearly 400,000 Danes who departed from Copenhagen or via Hamburg (1869 to 1908) and probate records from selected countries—all without spending a krone.

- **DigitalArkivet**

Already bookmarked by Norwegian researchers for its online censuses, probate records and tax lists, this free website from the National Archives of Norway is adding parish records—the most important tool for tracing Scandinavian families.

- **Foundation for Eastern European Family History**

The website for this organization (formerly the Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies) is a great place to begin researching ancestors ranging from Russia in the east to Switzerland in the west. Start with the resources behind the clickable map of the region and then check out the map library, news feed and more.

- **German Genealogy Resources on the Internet**

This site, dedicated to researching Americans' most common ancestry group, excels in how-to's but also serves as a portal to passenger lists, German directories vital records and more.

- **Institute of Migration \$**

Find your Finnish emigrant ancestors in this collection of 381,000 passenger-list records and other resources—even 12,000 old photos. Searching here is free, but you'll need to pay about \$27 a year to see your full results.

- **PolishRoots**

With its getting-started guide, maps, helpful links and back issues of the Gen Dobryl e-zine, this website will jump-start your quest for relatives not only from present-day Poland but all of what was historically part of the Polish Commonwealth.

- **Wie Was Wie**

Now available in English, this successor to the Genlias collection of civil registration records is worth doffing into for its 86.5 million records—the key to tracing ancestors in the Netherlands. (David A. Fryxell—Online Familytree Magazine)

### **FamlySearch Wiki**

The FamilySearch Wiki is a tool for finding information about subjects, records that may have been generated about your ancestors, and the places in which the records might be found. It is a vast information depository. When you search in the Wiki you can search for places your ancestors lived, but also for subjects and research methods to help you understand and learn about the history of your families. You can possibly find records and record collections from the states, counties and cities where you ancestors may have worked and lived. You will not find Wiki pages about specific ancestors, but you may find a link to a database that contains your ancestor's birth, marriage and/or death record! Until you have found your Great, great, great Grandfather in a census record dating back to when he was 5 years old...you can't imagine the surprise and joy that you can experience through researching here.

The Wiki has information from the United States, as well as from 244 countries. Here you will be able to find information about records available in these countries as well as links to documents, such as census records, marriage records, birth records and death records, and much more. Probate documents are often very informative and may help you in your search. There is an extensive list of links to United States military records on the Wiki.

With research and reading, combined with some information gathering to lay the groundwork, you can begin to construct your family tree and fill in the blanks that may have eluded you. The FamilySearch Wiki is a wonderful place to start to learn about the places your ancestors resided in order to be better able to discover further information and records!

By simply typing a word or two into the search engine at the top right of the page, you can begin to see some of the thousands of information pages that are here on the FamilySearch Wiki. Although each page is different—it is a community-compiled information source—you can find location-and subject-specific information as well as links to record collections from all over the world. You will even find links to lessons: Researching in the FamilySearch Wiki: A Case Study (<http://familysearch.org/learningcenter/lesson/researching-in-the-familysearch-wiki-a-case-study/664>) That will teach you how to use the Wiki and videos (<http://hiddenancestors.com/FSstour.html>) to assist you in your searches.

In addition to searching for information here on the FamilySearch Wiki, we would like to invite you to contribute to the Wiki by writing articles about where you might have found records we are missing and editing articles that may need editing. We view the Wiki as a community effort that will only get better with your participation. The only thing more fun than watching your family tree grow is helping others to grow their family trees as well.

### **To Use the Wiki in Your Search for Ancestral Records You will Need to be Prepared**

1. Think about what you want to find out about your ancestor. Be specific.
2. Consider the location where that event might have happened. The more you can narrow your search, the more successful you will be.
3. Think about which specific records might contain the information you are seeking.
4. Work backward instead of forward. Look for a death or marriage record before looking for a birth record. We generate more and more records the older we become. The later in time you look, the more likely you will be able to find a record.
5. Consider the record/document trails that all of us leave behind.

When you begin adding names to your tree, remember to use first name, middle name, and last name whenever possible. He may have been “Uncle Tommy” to you, but on his records, he would most likely have been Thomas Middle Surname. (Information taken from FamilySearch Wiki on FamilySearch.org)

### **Family History Center Portal**

FamilySearch.org has arranged for several online research services to be available at the Family History Centers for free access. FamilySearch.org has recently added new websites to the FHC Portal.

This special access that family history centers have been granted to these databases only works when the online services are accessed through a computer in a Family History Center. A patron once at the Family History Center needs to click on the icon Family History Portal then click on Premium websites and then click on the desired website. List of Premium websites follows:

- 1.1 19<sup>th</sup> Century British Library Newspapers
- 1.2 Access Newspaper Archives
- 1.3 Alexander St Press-American Civil War
- 1.4 Ancestry
- 1.5 ArkivDigital
- 1.6 Find My Past
- 1.7 Fold3—formerly Footnote
- 1.8 The Genealogist
- 1.9 Historic Map Works—Library Edition
- 1.10 Kinpoint—Premium
- 1.11 MyHeritage—Library Edition
- 1.12 Paper Trail
- 1.13 ProQuest Obituary Listings
- 1.14 Puzzilla—Premium Services
- 1.15 World Vital Records  
(Submitted by the Editor)

### **Having Fun with Family History American Ethnic Geography**

<https://www.geolounge.com/american-ethnic-geography/> This site provides a cultural geography of the US as well as Canada. Browse through the links to find maps showing the distribution of religious ethnic groups, languages and more.

### **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.

### **Anyday Today-in-History**

<http://www.scopesys.com/anyday/>  
Historic Events and Birthdates that occurred on a selected day of the year.

### **Behind the Name**

<http://www.behindthename.com/> the etymology and the history of first names  
1. Behind the Name: Name Facts Message Board <http://www.behindthename.com/bb/list.php?board=gen> This board is for the discussion of names and their meaning, history and usage.

### Face Recognition Website:

My Heritage Face Recognition

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

[MyHeritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com) is one of the world's first services to apply advanced face recognition technology to personal photos and family history.

### Fun Life Expectancy Quiz [www.free-online-calculator-use.com/life-expectancy-quiz.html](http://www.free-online-calculator-use.com/life-expectancy-quiz.html)

This online life expectancy quiz will calculate a rough estimate of how long you will live based on your age, gender, and your answers to the 23 questions.

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

Google Earth lets you fly anywhere on Earth to view satellite imagery, maps, terrain, 3D buildings and even explore galaxies in the Sky. You can explore rich geographical content, save your toured places and share with others.

### How Many of Me? <http://howmanyofme.com/>

There are 323,814,001 people in the United States of America. If everyone in the US lined up single file, the line would stretch around the world about 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.

### Locality Databases

--**Epodunk** <http://www.epodunk.com/genealogy/index.html> Great place to find information about cities and counties in the U.S.

--**Linkpendium** <http://www.linkpendium.com/>

Genealogy Links (7,085,241)

--**Wikipedia**

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main\\_Page](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Main_Page)

Great for finding counties and shires in countries

### 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.

**MapYourAncestors** <http://mapyourancestors.com/>

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

**MyTimeCapsule** [www.mytimecapsule.net](http://www.mytimecapsule.net)

This is a website where you can create your own digital time capsules. They will keep it for you to reveal it when you want it and to whomever you want it revealed to. They offer a Basic Time Capsule—Free, Standard Time Capsule--\$10 10 MB and an Extra Time Capsule \$10—100 MB.

### Test Your Genealogy IQ

<http://genealogy.about.com/library/week/aa022500a.htm> Test your genealogy I.Q. with this fun quiz on some of the basic premises of genealogy.

### Timeline--Archive--Infoplease—

<http://www.infoplease.com/spot/timelinearchive.html> This site includes many timelines regarding world history, country history, U.S. history, disasters, biography, sports, entertainment, health and science.

### Who Shares My First Name?

<http://www.who2.com/name/> You can find some 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. (Some information taken from Mary Tollestrup's handout--Lethbridge Family History Conf. October 2012)

### A Family History Poem

Your tombstone stands among the rest;  
Neglected and alone  
The name and date are chiseled out.  
On polished, marbled stone.  
It reaches out to all who care.  
It is too late to mourn.  
You did not know that I exist  
You died and I was born.  
Yet each of us are cells of you,  
In flesh, in blood, in bone  
Our blood contracts and beats a pulse  
Entirely not our own  
Dear Ancestor, the place you filled  
One hundred years ago  
Spreads out among the ones you left  
Who would have loved you so.  
I wonder if you lived and loved.  
I wonder if you knew  
That someday I would find this spot  
And come to visit you. —Author unknown  
(Found in BGOGS Vol. 29 #4, Nov 1999)

### The Family History Widow

My husband is gone, no longer around.  
Grass needs mowing and he's nowhere to be found!  
Sink needs fixin and the house needs some paint.  
So many honeydoos I think that I will faint!  
No he hasn't passed on and he isn't dead.  
He's oft with his relatives who've gone on ahead!  
He's studying their pasts, oft in his own little room.  
And if I don't get some attention he'll be with them soon!  
So when I'm not sure where he is. It's never a mystery!  
You see he's off working on his Family History!  
(By J.C. Hoskins, printed in the Talbot Times newsletter, September 2003)