YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
Vol. 35, No. 3
Nov 2018
ISSN 0836-5318

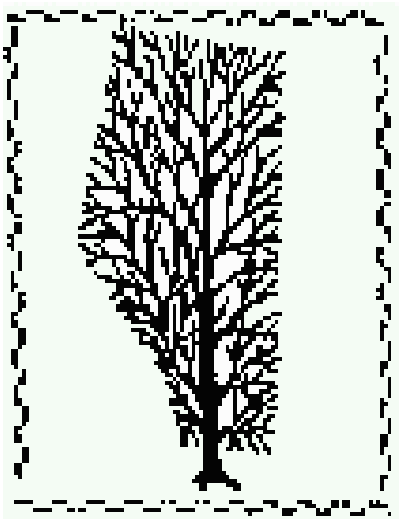

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Lethbridge AGS Executive Committee	2
Lethbridge AGS Membership & Hours	2
President's Message	2
Monthly Meetings	2
Lethbridge Family History Center (new hours)	3
Scotland Names	3-4
Oral Histories	4-5
Discovering Your Family History	5-8
Finding Female Ancestors and Maiden Names	8-9
Canadian Church Archives Websites	10-11
25 Genealogy Websites For Beginners	11-12
Genealogy Gens	12

Editor's Corner

If you want to submit articles, genealogy humor, interesting web sites or have any queries you want us to print feel free to contact us. You can drop off your submissions to our library or phone (403) 328-9564 or send an e-mail to 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 June. Visitors Welcome! Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request. See our web site at:
http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net/Exec.htm
Address: 1:28; 909 – 3rd Avenue North.
Phone: (403) 328-9564

Membership Dues

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	John Squarek
Vice President	Win Evans
Treasurer	Pat Barry
Secretary	Julie Miller
Past President	Doug McLeod

BRANCH COMMITTEE

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

President's Message

It looks like winter is upon us, although the weather has been favorable to date. I hope you and your families have a great Christmas season, celebrating family ties, and maybe even discussing the latest work you have done on your genealogy searches. Remember we need to pass along what we have discovered, otherwise it will fade away.

With regard to the management of the Lethbridge Branch, elections will be held at the February 2019 Meeting. The positions of President, Vice President, and Secretary are open. Please contact Doug McLeod if you are interested, or if you know of anyone else who might be interested in these positions.

At the November AGS Board meeting, a proposal by Lyn Meehan relative to the AGS Surname Database was approved. This project will proceed immediately. A copy of this proposal will be emailed to members shortly.

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

The weekend of 26-28 April 2019 the Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS) will host another provincial conference celebrating the human story — ***Images Through Time***. Visit the AGS website for further information at www.abgenealogy.ca

This will be my last President's Message, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the position, and I encourage others to consider involvement with the management of the Branch. If you have ideas on membership or youth activities, this would be good place to start. --John

Monthly Meetings

We held our Annual International Dinner on Saturday, October 20th. We were delighted to have Andrew Chernevych, Archivist from the Galt Archives who gave a presentation on How To Identify Unknown Photographs. There were lots of tasty International potluck food items to enjoy. At our November meeting members Bob and Anne Baines were the presenters. Bob spoke on "Listen to Your Grandmother" and Anne spoke about her most interesting research experiences. Anne is a founding member of our Branch. On January 17 our speaker will be Belinda Crowson who will speak on Hardieville--focus on the community, the mine and some of the families who lived there.

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

The Lethbridge Family History Center will close Dec 7th and re-open on January 7th. The Center's hours will be changing slightly in January. They will be open Monday 9:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

Scotland Names

Understanding given names and surnames can help you trace your ancestors. This is particularly true once the origin of the name has been established.

Online Databases:
MostCommonScottishSurnames (http://www.clanscottsociety.org/linked/)
Surnames Behind the Name (http://surnames.behindthename.com/)

Surnames
The nobility and wealthy landowners first began using surnames. Merchants and townspeople adopted the custom, as eventually did the rural population. This process took several centuries. Surnames developed from several sources and include the following types:

Occupational: based on a person's trade:

- Soutar (a shoemaker), Carter (also derived from MacArthur), Stewart (a steward) or Smith
- MacGowan/Gow (Mac a' Ghobhainn, son of the Smith), Nellie (mac an Fhilidh, son of the poet), MacIntyre (Mac-an-t-Saior, son of the carpenter).

Geographic: based on a person's residence:

- Aberdein (i.e Aberdeen), Dalziel, Dunbar, Sutherland or Glasgow.
- Murray (Moireach, someone from Moray), Boyd (Boideach, someone from the Isle of Bute), Ross (someone living on a headland).

Patronymic, based on a person's father's name:

- Dickson/Ritchie (Richard), Thomson, Williamson/Wilson, Duncan.
- MacConnochie (MacDonnchaidh, son of Duncan), MacWilliam (MacUilleim), Quayle (MacPhail, son of Paul).

Descriptive or nickname, often referring to hair color, complexion, or personality traits:

- Braidfute (Broadfooted), Fairbairn (Beautiful child), Reid (red), Black
- Dow (Dubh, dark haired), Keir (ciar, swarthy, or cearr, left handed), Breck (Breac, freckled), Douglas (Dughlas from Dubh-ghlas, dark-grey haired), Gilroy (MacGhilleruaidh, son of the red headed person)
- Godard (good natured), Hardie (bold, daring), Kenard (kind-hearted), Sharp (sharp or keen), Smart (smeart, meaning active), Truman (true or trusty man).

Ethnic Origins

- Wallace (Wealths, a Brython or Welshman), Bremnar (Brabant), Inglis (English, Scott, Fleming)
- Galbraith (Mac a' Bhreatannaich, son of the Brython or Welsh speaker), MacDougall (MacDhughaill >MacDhubhghaill, son of a Dubhgall, a certain type of Norseman)

Ecclesiastical, many beginning with (Mac)gil (MacGhille)

- Kirk (church), Bell
- Maclean (MacGhil-Eain, son of the servant of St John), Gilchrist (MacGhilleChriosd, son of the servant of the servant of Christ), MacPherson (Mac a' Phearsain, son of the ecclesiastic), MacMillan (MacMhaolain, son of the tonsured one, i.e. a monk), Dewar (Mac-an-Deoir).

It should be noted that in the Celtic Church until surprisingly late, that churchmen and monks could marry, hence the proliferation of names such as McNab (Mac-an-Aba, son of the abbott).

More Information
After the Battle of Culloden in 1746 and the subsequent restrictive acts against the Highland clans, many changed their surnames from the clan names to less Gaelic names to avoid being punished by the British government for being associated with clans in disfavor with the crown. Sometimes several generations used a different surname before changing it back to the original clan name.

Some surnames were also directly translated into English, e.g. Mac a' Bhrataich and MacGhilledhuinn could be rendered into Bannerman and Brown/Brun, and sometimes unrelated names were used to translate each other, e.g. Mac na Ceardaich (son of the tinsmith) is rendered Sinclair in some places, MacDhonnchaidh (son of Duncan) as Robertson.

Sometimes first names will also be translated into English or rendered by a different name. In former times, it was common for this to be done by the authorities, with or without permission of the bearer. For example, someone called Gilleasbaig may find his name rendered either Archibald or Gillespie, and the woman's name Oighrig has been rendered variously as Africa and Euphemia (Effie). In more distant times, one of the Lords of Galloway was known as Roland or Lochlan, and Flora MacDonald, would have been known as Fionnghal in her native tongue. In Orkney and Shetland, where Norn was formerly spoken, many forenames have derivations from pet forms of Scandinavian names, e.g. Rasmie derives from Erasmus.

Patronymics
Patronymics is the custom of deriving a surname from the given name of a father or male ancestor. In the Orkney Islands, Shetland Islands, and many parts of northern Scotland, many people use patronymic names.

The use of patronymics in Scotland was in part a result of early Scandinavian settlement into Scotland, which influenced naming patterns for centuries. While the common use of patronymics eventually died out, their influence was apparent. (www.familysearch,org/familysearchwiki)

Oral History Interviewing

Oral history interviewing is one of my favorites! I've taught classes on this for years.

Interviewing Guidelines

Setting Up the Interview
Prior to going to the interview review any family history material you have on hand that relates to the individual that you are planning to interview.

Prepare a general interview outline or questionnaire to use as a guide during the interview. Make sure to leave lots of space between each question to allow you to write some comments or to add additional topics that may come up during the interview.

1. **Arrange Your Interview**
   a. Contact your relative by telephone or in person. Letters easily get mislaid.
   b. If you decide to conduct a telephone interview let them know that they are being taped.

2. **Act Interested**
Make sure to act interested with any of their recollections and suggest coming by to talk. Then respond positively setting a firm date including time and place. Inform them you'll be bringing a voice recording device or your cell phone when you come. This appointment should be within a week of your original contact.

3. **Recording the Interview**
Let them know that you will be taping the interview. This might make them a little apprehensive at first. Be convincing by telling them their family history is important and by recording no important details will be missed.

4. **Have a Set of Questions Ready**
Always have a set of questions prepared ahead of time for you to use as a guide in directing your interview. Never send the interview questions to them ahead of time. You want their answers to be new, fresh and not pre-planned.

5. **Keep Control of the Interview**
Your interviewee may want to wander. Try to get specific answers to the questions that you have prepared. Also remember that sometimes when one recollection is being recited another will be remembered. Don't be afraid to ask the same question more than once remembering to reword the question. This way you will get a more complete picture.

6. **Don't Go Over the Interview Beforehand**
You'll want it to be spontaneous as possible. In a practice run they may give you all the juicy information and neglect to repeat it when you are taping them later on.

7. **Start the Interview Upon Your Arrival**
If you have an interest in photo albums and family memorabilia save it for after the interview. Remember to stay focused and to stay on track.

Taping the Interview

1. Make sure your tape recorder is in good working order. Make sure to practice with your recorder before going to the interview make sure it's in good working order.

2. Label your tape beforehand with the name of the interviewee, the location of the interview, and the date.

3. Find a quiet room to conduct the interview where you won't be interrupted. Only you and your interviewee should be present in the room.

4. Please be aware of any background noise such as traffic remembering to shut all doors and windows. Do not have any radios, televisions on or electrical appliances running in the background such as a dishwasher or vacuums.

5. At the beginning of the tape let there be a short pause to allow the tape to run for about 30 seconds then provide a brief introduction giving your name as the interviewer and the name of your interviewee and the date and the location.

6. Avoid using closed ended questions (yes/no answers). To get the interviewee going ask open-ended questions that need to be answered at length.

7. Let the interviewee answer the questions, do not pitch hit or provide answers for them. In other words do not influence the answers they will give you.

8. Do not interrupt their first response. Most people will try to summarize their life with a brief description while skipping over lots of good information. During this time you can make notes of follow-up questions to ask them when they are done.

9. Keep eye contact and show that you are interested by your facial expressions. How you react to them will determine how much information they will give you.

10. Pay attention to what is being said. Many questions may arise that you will want to ask later. Often they may answer two or three questions in answer to what they think is one question. You need not ask questions for information you've already received. Only ask the same question again if they did not properly answer the first time remembering to word it differently.

11. If they pause, do not quickly jump in and ask another question. You may miss a lot of important information that they are trying to properly phrase.

12. One of the most important things that you can do as an interviewer is to make your respondent comfortable. If they are not feeling at ease then the interview will not go well and could end rather abruptly. Once they are comfortable you may then start to politely interrupt for the reason of getting more specific information or to clarify statements.

You can find a list of family history interview questions online or make up your own by starting with questions about their their birth and their earliest memories of their childhood.

Transcribing Information

1. Keep the interview tape for posterity to listen to. It is very important to transcribe your interview on paper with your computer incase the tape ever gets ruined or lost.

There are a couple of options for you to follow:
1. You can transcribe it yourself.

2. You can hire someone to do it for you.

3. If you plan on doing a lot of interviewing then you might want to purchase a digital taping device or small Dictaphone to make your job easier. This is a much easier way to transcribe your interviews especially if you plan on writing a family history and want to gather information from older folk who may have known your family. You may also video tape your interviews as well.

4. Once you've finished transcribing the interview you need to play it back on your tape recorder and proofread what you've transcribed. Don't worry about the "ands, I don't knows, and huh" etc. You want the story not the pauses and unnecessary words.

5. Type up a final version giving a copy to your interviewee and keeping extra copies for yourself remembering to keep a file on the interviews you've conducted. (Compiled by Susan Haga, Editor)

Discovering Your Family History With MyHeritage.com

MyHeritage has developed seven powerful technologies to help you find family history records quickly.
Smart Matching--matching people with MyHeritage Trees.
Record Matching--finding records for people in MyHeritage Tree.

Newspaper Matching--finding newspaper articles for people in MyHeritage Tree.
Record Detective--one Record Match can be used to find other records.
Instant Discoveries--add a complete new branch or photos, based on MyHeritage Trees.
Global Name Translation--translate any first or last name between languages.
SearchConnect--can tell you who else made a similar search.
PedigreeMap--Locates all events in a map and help you improve the locations.
Book Matching--Tree to Books matches
DNA Matching--Finding people that may be related by DNA analysis.

What is Smart Matching
Smart Matching is a unique technology that matches between the individuals in your family tree and more than 2.6 billion individuals in 40 million other family trees on MyHeritage.com. The matching technology is sophisticated and bridges across differences in spelling, phonetics and relationships that may exist between trees.

How Does Smart Matching Work?
Each time you add or edit an individual in a family tree, it tries to connect that individual or any other relatives to millions of people in other family trees published by other MyHeritage users, thereby comparing millions of names, facts and connections intelligently.

When a match is found, both owners are informed, and benefit from both collaboration and learning from each other. See your tree and the matching tree side-by-side to spot similarities and differences. Behind the scenes, new algorithms were added to cover spelling and phonetic variations, understand nicknames, handle synonyms and deal with ethnic variations.

Additionally, a brand-new interface has been added for viewing any two matching trees side-by-side, to help tree owners quickly spot what they may learn from the other tree.

The enhancing Smart Matching allows users to confirm or reject any match, and the platform distinguishes between matches that were confirmed or rejected by each respective tree owner. Users also have the ability to start discussions about matches between researchers and family members about discoveries and the exchange of noteworthy information on mutual relatives.

What is Record Matching?
Record Matching technology is designed to automatically find matching historical records for the family trees of our users, from our growing collection of +8 billion of records.

The goal of Record Matching is to be a discovery-finder and a time saver. It will automatically research every individual in every family tree on MyHeritage, consolidating all the relevant historical records found in one interactive report, which the user can then go over systematically. Automatic research is not a substitute for manual research, but it can certainly make discoveries that many users will not have the time or luck to find on their own.

What is Record Detective
Record Detective it's the first technology of its kind to automatically extend the paper trail from a single historical record to other related records and family tree connections. Record Detective generates new leads and discoveries by turning a single record into a door to more. For example, a record discovered in MyHeritage's digital archive, SuperSearch, will now automatically include a summary of additional records and individuals in family trees relating to it, providing new information and clues to take your research to new directions.

The new generation of the technology released, overcomes transitivity (if birth record A matches John D Smith in a family tree, and John D. Smith matched John Smith in it adds also direct record-to-record matches, even for records that have no matching family tree profiles on MyHeritage. This allowed magical discoveries, for example, a birth record could point at a newspaper article about the wedding of the same person!

What Are Instant Discoveries?
Instant Discoveries is a unique experience for discovering family history information and applying it to one's tree on MyHeritage with ease. We released this experience for new users to make it easier for them to embark on their family history journey. By signing up at MyHeritage and entering some basic information about immediate family members, new users discovered ancestors, relatives and never-seen-before photos in just a few seconds.

An Instant Discovery is a "package" of family history information that you can apply in one click. If an individual in your family tree

connects to a branch in another family tree, you'll be alerted about this and can then choose to add everyone in that branch (up to 40-50 people) to your tree, who is not already there, in one go, rather than manually add people one by one, and amend the data piece by piece.

With **People Discoveries**, an entire branch can be copied in a single click, along with all facts, events and photos, and source citations are automatically created in the target tree to document exactly where the data came from. To protect the privacy of other users Instant Discoveries never give information on living people.

Photo Discoveries makes it easy for you to add photographs to people in your family tree who currently do not have any photos, in just a few clicks, based on the work of other users.

What is Global Name Translation

Global Name Translation technology is unique to MyHeritage, to help break through those language barriers in the quest to uncover your past. This innovation makes it even easier to discover your global roots. The technology automatically translates names found in historical records and family trees from language to another, at a very high accuracy, generating all plausible translations, to facilitate matches between names in different languages. In addition, a manual search on MyHeritage's SuperSearch, will return results in other languages, automatically translated into the language of the query.

How can this benefit you? For example, perhaps your American family has Russian roots. Previously, you would have needed to search also in Russian to find all information available about your ancestors. Now you can search in English, and receive results in Russian, translated back into English for your convenience.

What is SearchConnect

SearchConnect includes millions of searches made by MyHeritage members. It allows you to find other users who searched for the people you are looking for, and to view the full data of their search (such as dates, places, and relatives) as well as similar searches they've made. If you find a result that seems relevant or useful, you can contact the person who conducted the search and get in touch to exchange more information.

Search Connect results are included in SuperSearch, MyHeritage's powerful search engine for historical records. It is a new collection, located in the Family Trees category, and you can also search it on its own. Initially containing more than 30 million entries of unique searches by MyHeritage members, for rare names, Search Connect will continue to grow every week as more users conduct new searches.

What is Book Matching?

Book Matching automatically researches individuals found in family trees in our vast collection of digitized historical books, using semantic analysis to understand every sentence in the page, in order to find matches with very high accuracy. Every match is a paragraph from a book specifically about the person in the family tree, providing direct access to that paragraph and the ability to browse through the rest of the book.

What is PedigreeMap

PedigreeMap displays all events in a MyHeritage user's family tree, such as births, marriages and deaths, as well as digital photos and scanned historical photos, on an interactive map. All data is grouped by country and location, and users can easily filter their view of the map by person, family group, event type and time period.

MyHeritage converted every place name referenced in your family tree or your photos into geographical coordinates. After the coordinates are calculated, your family history events are plotted on the map.

PedigreeMap can "Find and Replace" place names for standardization and to improve the data quality in your family tree. If you have spelled a place name incorrectly or inconsistently throughout your tree, you can easily change these in PedigreeMap and this change will be reflected on that individual's family tree profile. Place names are grouped by location so you can easily see if you have misspelled a place name.

PedigreeMap indicates places where you didn't use standard canonicalized place names. It will detect spelling errors in place names, and suggest fixes. A small red dotted line next to a place name in the list indicates that there are further suggestions for change.

What is DNA Matching?
MyHeritage affordable, easy-to-use DNA home testing kit can reveal valuable family history information and tell you more about your origins. MyHeritage DNA provides two main features: DNA Matching for finding relatives, and detailed ethnicity reports that map our ethnic and geographic origins. The DNA Matching service enables those who use the MyHeritage DNA test--or who have tested through other services and upload the raw data--to enjoy MyHeritage's exceptional matching capabilities for their family history research. (Daniel Horowitz--Lethbridge Family History Conference--webinar--Oct 20/18)

Finding Female Ancestors/Maiden Names

In genealogy research, finding the female always presents special problems. Of course, the primary problem is that women usually change their names when they marry, but part of the difficulty also arises from a woman's legal and social status at various times in history. While there have been some matriarchal societies, most of our history has seen women as being subject, to a greater or lesser degree, to the control of men.

Maiden Names
Finding a maiden name is almost always essential to further research on a particular line. Naturally, the best place to locate a maiden name is on a marriage record. If that is not available, other vital records may have the information, although this is usually the case only with more modern records, not those over 100 years old. These include birth and death certificates of her children. This is by no means standard and is only a possibility. Baptismal records may also contain the mother's maiden name, even in older church records.

Another possible source is her obituary, which might mention surviving brothers. Also look for obituaries of her sisters or men you believe are her brothers. If you have found a person that you think might be one of her parents, it's worthwhile to check the death certificates because a family member, perhaps your ancestor, usually provided the information on the death certificate and sometimes her relationship was given. Also look for wills from likely candidates--a woman may be mentioned in her father's or mother's will.

Without direct information, you sometimes have to resort to indirect clues. Look for repetition of certain given names in the family. If she named her son Hezekiah, Rudyard or some other uncommon name and there was an older man of that same name in the vicinity that may be her father. Look also for surnames being used as second names for her children. A woman often gave her child her own maiden name as a middle name. In the census, look for older people living in the same household or nearby. They may well be the woman's parents.

Non-Productive Sources
There are many sources where you might find information about a woman and it is worthwhile looking at any record where she is mentioned. However, it is also important to know where she is mentioned. However, it is important to know where you won't find anything.

In many cases a married woman was subject to her husband and the record would be in her husband's name. For example, prior to 1850, the U.S, census only listed the head of household by name so you will not find any information about a woman if the husband was still alive particularly with the earlier censuses. If the woman was a widow and the head of the household, then she would be listed in the census.

Wills are wonderful sources of information someone who died in 1730 at the age of 60 would have left a will dividing her possessions amongst her several children. However, there is very little likelihood of this as married women were not allowed to write wills at that time. Everything they owned automatically went to their husbands so there was no need for a will. Although genealogists also know that land records can be an important source of information, in the early days of our court married women usually could not own land, so you might not find much help in land records.

Military pension records are a great source of family information but women were not allowed to serve in the military until 1890 when the nurses joined the Spanish-American War and eventually received pensions based on their own service. However, since the Revolutionary War, widows of soldiers have been eligible for pensions so all men's pension records are a good source for information on the women in the family.

Divorce
Surprisingly enough, divorce is not a recent invention. In 1682 Pennsylvania allowed divorce on the grounds of adultery. The Puritans viewed marriage as a civil contract, not a sacrament, and therefore dissolvable. The first divorce in Connecticut, in 1655, was granted for desertion. In 1656, the New Haven (Connecticut) colony stated that in a divorce, the innocent party would have liberty to marry again. In 1804 Congress endowed the District of Columbia District court with the power to grant divorces (but in 1901 amended the

law to grant divorce only on the grounds of adultery).

New Reference Emphasizing Women

In several European countries, including France, and Italy, women frequently used their married names on legal documents. In many localities the death records for German and Polish Catholic women recorded only their maiden names while in Scotland widows reverted to their maiden names. In some countries (Wales, Scandinavia and the Netherlands), married women often retained their maiden names.

In the 18th century and earlier, women generally came under the protection of their fathers until they married and then their husbands were responsible for them. A woman's legal position was quite different depending on whether she lived under civil or common law.

In civil law a husband and wife were considered co-owners of community property which was managed by the husband. A married woman could manage and control her own separate property. In common law, which originated in England, a married couple was considered one person and the husband controlled everything. It did not matter if the woman had been given money by her father, inherited it or earned it herself. The husband had the right to dispose of it.

If a husband died intestate (without making a will) a wife was entitled to one-third of her husband's personal estate and in some cases one-third of his real estate, called the "dower right," which was usually only for her lifetime. Once a widow inherited money, possessions or property she could then manage them herself.

One wonders why women ever remarried under these circumstances, but if she only received one-third of the estate, it probably wasn't enough to live on. Connecticut passed a law stating in 1769 for example, that the heirs of an estate were liable for the support of the widow if the dower was inadequate, but she was at the mercy of the rest of the family, often her own sons or her husband's sons by an earlier marriage. In 1683 New York law stated that the widow could stay in her husband's home for only 40 days after his death. After that she had to make do with her dower.

Women and the Law

Gradually the laws changed and married women were allowed to own and manage land in their own right and write wills disposing of personal possessions and property. Eventually, a widow's share consisted of one-third or more of both personal and real property which were hers permanently in all U.S. states for example.

Minority Women

Chinese were restricted from emigration at one time and the requirements for bringing in Chinese and Japanese wives was, until recently, much more restricted than for other nationalities. Then in the U.S. any slave given their freedom had to leave the state where they had been living as a slave. This was very difficult because sometimes they had to leave family behind. It could also be quite terrifying for a man or a woman who had never been able to make any decisions about their personal life to suddenly have to move to a strange place, find a place to live and a way to earn a living.

Interpreting Laws

Trying to understand what life was like at any one time based on the laws is a bit tricky. A law is usually passed by a legislative body (which is supposed to represent the people) because they want to change a current law or codify and clarify common practice. If a law was passed making 16 the minimum age for a bride to marry, it could mean several things, such as: 1) that the minimum age is now 14 and being raised, 2) the minimum age is 18 and it is being lowered, 3) a lot of girls are being married off at 12 and 13 and people want this stopped, or 4) there is no minimum but a small group is pushing for a minimum of 20 so the legislature passed the age 16 minimum to thwart them.

A law stating that a woman could own land may not indicate that previously there was a law stating she couldn't. It may have just been common practice not to allow it. (The local recorder may have had a personal opinion that the woman's place was in the home and simply informed her that when she found herself a husband or her daddy or brother would come in and sign for her, he would register the land.) The law simply established her right to own the land in spite of the beliefs of local officials.

However, one can see that women began to gain more rights in the first half of the 19th century. The first women's rights convention was held in Senecca Falls, New York in 1848 and changes came more swiftly after that, Congress passed a law in 1879 permitting women to practice law in all the Federal courts and all women gained the right to vote in 1920. (Donna Przecha--Odgen, Utah http://www.genealogy.com/articles/research/50_donna.html

Canadian Church Archive Websites

Archives in the Anglican Church
www.anglican.ca/archives/inCanada/

Archives of Ontario --Church Records Collection 1749-1981
www.ao.minisisinc.com/scripts/mwimain.dll/
Contains original manuscripts, photocopies and microfilm copies of Ontario Church Records including minutes , church registers, communion rolls, session rolls, birth records, baptisms, marriage records, burial records, pew rental records, deeds, military records, church histories and newspaper clippings. Almost all the churches within the collection are in Ontario, however some are out of province. Lists places in Ontario and churches.

The Association of Canadian Archivists has links to other archival sites http://aca.archives.ca/

BC Archives
http://www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/
Has a maps section on its homepage including digitized maps.

Canadian Baptist Archives (McMaster Divinity College)
https://www.mcmasterdivinity.ca/welcome/canadian-baptist-archives

Library & Archives Canada
www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/
Has published a listing of the church records in their care; many of these date from the 1850s.

Libraries, Lloyd Reeds Map Collection--Early Printed Maps of Canada 1540-1799
www.library.mcmaster.ca/maps/Kershaw/contentindx.htm

Lutheran Church of Canada
www.lutheranchurch-canadaca/congregations.php?location=AB

Map of the Province of Upper Canada (David Rumsey Collection) (excellent!)
www.davidrumsey.com/maps3638.html

Maps of Parishes of Quebec 17th-18th Centuries
www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/en/carte

Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial Archives--Church Records
https://www.therooms.ca/collections-research/genealogy-research/

Parish records finding aid-Roman Catholic Index of names of baptisms--Newfoundland & Labrador.

Nova Scotia Archives
https://archives.novascotia.ca/genealogy/church/registers

Oldmaps Online
www.oldmapsonline.org/en/Alberta

Ontario, Canada , Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection) 1802-1967
www.search.ancestry.ca/search/dbd.aspx?dbid=1109

Ontario--Church Records Collection 1749-1981
www.ao.minisisinc.com/scripts/mwimain.dll/
Contains original manuscripts, photocopies and microfilm copies of Ontario Church Records including minutes, church registers, communion and session rolls, birth, baptismal, marriage and burial records, pew rental records deeds, military records, church histories and newspaper clippings. Lists include places in Ontario and some outside the Province including their addresses.

Ontario Roman Catholic Church Records 1760-1923 www.anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/ontario-roman-catholic-church-records.html

Sources of Religious Records in Ontario
www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/ontario_religious-records.aspx
This is a list of all denominations in Ontario (alphabetically) their addresses and their hours of operation starting with Anglican through United.

Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives
www.presbyterianarchives.ca
Our holdings consist of over 3,500 sq feet of records. The oldest item in the archives dates from 1638.

Provincial Archives of Alberta
www.provincialarchives.alberta.ca/

See Archives of Alberta Northwest Conference found at PAA
https://albertanorthwestconference.ca/archives/
The Conference Archives consists of approximately 400 linear meters of records dating from the 1830s to the present. These records are accessible through the Sandra Thomson reading room of the PAA. There is no

fee to access the holdings of the AB NW Conference Archives. When you attend the PAA you will be given a form to sign stating that you will only view the Church records there for your own genealogical purposes.

The United Church of Canada
www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/united-church-canada-archives
Located in Toronto it includes the General Council Archives and the Central Ontario Conference Archives. If you require a legal certificate please complete the certificate request found under downloads for legal purposes. Email archives@unitedchurch.ca or telephone 416 231-7680 ext 1101 Fee is $30.00.

The University of Alberta (Directories)
www.peel.library.ualberta.ca/
Their Special Collections include directories (which give listings of churches in the area and newspapers which provide birth, marriage and death records including obituaries).

Wesleyan Methodist Church Baptismal Records 1828-1910
http://search.ancestry.ca/search/db.aspx?dbid=9194

Church Record Books
Acadian Church Records 1679-1757 translated and compiled by Winston de Ville (1964). Library www.amicus.collectionscanada.ca

Checklist of Parish Registers 1986 (4th edition, 1986) Patricia Birkitt's (Listing of church records dating from 1850's)

Terrence Punch's Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia (4th edition 1998) A genealogical handbook which includes 12 pages of church records held at the Nova Scotia Archives, and lists place, denomination and years covered. (Compiled by Susan Haga, Editor)

25 Genealogy Websites For Beginners

Archives.com
This site gives you access to mainly US censuses, vital records and old newspapers in the US and some in the UK. The Help Center answers basics questions about searches and account information. The Learn tabs lead you to how-to-articles and video tutorials on many topics, including how to construct a family tree to share with relatives. This inexpensive site is a fantastic beginner's option.

Atlas of Historical County Boundaries
Many genealogy records are created by counties, the boundaries of which may have changed over time (US). Click on a state, then view interactive map, and enter the date for which you want to see county boundaries.

Chronicling America
Library of Congress portal to historical newspapers. It has two important areas of content: digitized newspapers (1836-1922) from 25 states and Washington, D.C., and an index to all known newspapers published in the US and where to find them today.

Cyndi's List
Consider Cyndi's Howells site your Table of Contents for online genealogy. You'll find lists of sites dedicated to researching particular places, types of records, ethnic and religious groups, and more. Check out Beginners category for guides and tips just for newbies.

FamilyTree Magazine.com
This site offers an abundant tools and how-to articles for beginners. The Get Started Tab introduces you to the research process. Find free forms and cheat sheets under the Research Toolkit tab. An online archive of how-to-articles is keyword searchable and packed with content from past issues of the magazine and web only extras.

Fold3.com
This is a go to source for the digitized US military records from the US military records from the Revolutionary War forward. Go to the bottom right of the home page to "report for training." Here you will learn basic finding strategies. This section may help you decide whether to subscribe so you can search and see a lot of records that used to be accessible only through the National Archives.

GenealogyBank
Genealogy Bank is best known for its 6,000-plus historical newspaper titles. Search results are labeled as historical or modern obituaries, marriage notices, immigration records, making it easier to find what you're looking for. Click on the Learning Center for tutorials on searching the site and using maps in genealogy research.

General Land Office Records
Find many records generated when our ancestors bought land from the Federal Government,

especially in the Midwest and West. Access images of more than 5 million land title records dating back to 1820. Click on the Reference Center for more information about public land sales, patents and survey plats.

Google
In addition the ability to search names and places Google offers several genealogy-friendly tools. Google translates helps you to translate text and website in and out of English. Google Books includes an online library of out of print resources such as local histories and compiled genealogies. Google Maps and Google Earth help you locate ancestral addresses.

HeritageQuest Online
Access this resource free if your local library offers it. Just click to search US censuses, Freedman's Bank Records, Revolutionary War material, local family history books, and articles.

Mocavo
This search engine is just for genealogy. It provides a central tool for searching records in other relevant locations on the internet, and lets you upload your own trees and documents. Basic searches are free (great for uncommon names); more detailed searches require a subscription.

National Archives Resources for Genealogists
Here's your portal for US repository for most Federal military, census and immigration and other records. Read excellent descriptions of these records and order copies online. Some have digitized or indexed; click on online Research Tools; then access to Archival databases or Records digitized by partners. At the first, find databases to selected records at the National Archives. At the second, find a list (by microfilm number) of records now on Ancestry.com or Fold3.com.

NewspaperArchive.com
You can access more than 120 million newspapers dating back to 1607. The site is easy on the eye and easy to navigate. Browse newspapers by date and city or enter names and other keywords along with desired dates and locations. Click on Help to take tutorials on using the site.

Webpage by Stephen P. Morse
This site is helps beginners looking for passenger and immigration information. You won't want to pass up this site. Morse has created better source tools for data found on other websites. Click on About This Website and How To Use It for a primer, or just scroll down to the various search forms and the accompanying explanations where search results lead to paid subscription sites (including Ancestry.com) that sites will charge you for (so be careful).

World Vital Records
A budget friendly beginner option, World Vital Records provides digitized and indexed data from many parts of the world (find an interactive map on the home page). Find censuses, vital and military records, yearbooks, newspapers, and more. (Found at FamilyTreeMagazine website www.familytreemagazine.com)

Genealogy Gems

--There's a fine line between a packrat and a serious historian which are you?

--There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among his.--Helen Keller

--If you don't know history, you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know that it is part of a tree!--Michael Crichton

We are the chosen in each family, there is one who seems called to find the ancestors. To put the flesh on their bones and make them alive again, to tell their stories and to feel that somehow they know and approve. Doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts, but instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the storytellers of the tribe. (Best Genealogy Tips)

We inherit from our ancestors gifts we often take for granted. Each of us contains within this inheritance of soul -- we are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories and future promise.
--Edward Sellner

To forget one's ancestors is to be a brook without a source and a tree without a root--Chinese Proverb.

The thing that interests me the most about family history is the gap between the things we think we know about our families and the realities.