

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
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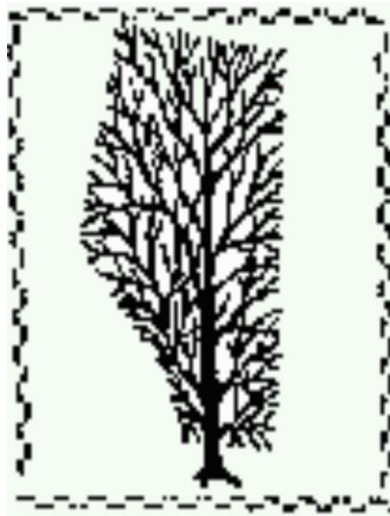


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If you want to submit articles, genealogy humor, interesting web sites or have any queries you want us to print feel free to contact us. You can send your submissions to our library email at lethags@theboss.net or phone (403) 328-9564 for some research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

Lethbridge A.G.S. Branch Hours

Library Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thurs 1:30–4:30 p.m. Meetings are all virtual for the time being (3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.) Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request. See <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)-\$50.00, Seniors (65+) Individual or Family (Includes 1 Branch)-\$45.00. If you receive RS digitally your membership is \$10.00 off except for Youth membership \$5.00—Young Adult membership is \$25.00 (includes RS).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Barry Simmonds
Vice President	Julie Miller
Treasurer	Kieran Biggins
Secretary	Wendy Warren
Past President	Marilyn Astle

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Cemetery	Eleanor McMurchy
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Library	Wendy Warren/Brian Dobing
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Youth Rep	Susan Haga
Advisory Group	MarilynAstle, John Squarek, Doug Mcleod, Eleanor McMurchy, Pat Barry, Phyllis Burnett, Win Evans

President's Message

Its hard to believe that its the end of February already. Time is flying and many things have or are changing.

We have had two meetings in the past months. We had Dr Tom Johnston talk about his presentation on the Dominion Lands Act and the settlement of Western Canada.

At our February meeting we tried to do a Legacy Webinar recording “10 Things to do before you leave the Library or Archive”. But due to technical difficulties we could not present it. A link was sent out to the members to view at their leisure.

Brian Dobing volunteered to help sign up of volunteers to work in the resource center. Due to people not volunteering to work on Friday afternoon a change was made to opening days. The resource center is now open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

The ongoing story of a Database is closer to being achieved. The ad hoc committee had a meeting in December with representatives of all branches. To outline what was needed for the database a Google Form was developed and presented at a Zoom meeting at the end of January, we edited this form to fit the needs of the users. We set a deadline of 3 weeks for feedback, then presented to the Board of Directors of AGS. The form is available to the representatives of each branch.

Another job that is ongoing, is itemizing all the books in the resource center. A big Thank-you to Wendy Warren and Brian Dobing in starting on this never-ending project.

Kieran Biggins has volunteered to email to our branch. He has successfully helped at least three requests.

I attended the Board of Directors meeting, by Zoom on the 25 of January.

- We talked about the bylaws of the Society, and these apply to all branches.

- The branches are responsible to put procedures and policies in place. The Question was asked of me just two weeks before the meeting does our branch have bylaws, I honestly did not know what we had in place. We need branch training of all members, of what applies to our branch and what do we have. I looked for a copy of the bylaws and found a blue binder that was last updated in February 2011, boy are we up to date.
- All the bylaws are on the Alberta Genealogical Societies web page. Yes, Dorothy we do have a very good website. Just a note the picture on the home page has a relative of my wife's, in it. This picture is of the Hudson's Bay Store in her hometown, of Fort Qu'Appelle, Saskatchewan.
- The Budget was reviewed and will be presented at the AGM in April. Red Deer AGS Branch is co-hosting, Gen Fair 2024 with the Family History Center in Red Deer on April 27th.
- Speaker Honorarium was discussed, and it was found that AGS can compensate branches to cover their costs.

At the end of January one of the computers operating became corrupted. It took me a whole week or two to get it up and running, again. It has Windows 11 on it now.

It is starting to look like we will make this year a very great year. A Special Thank-you to our great bunch of volunteers! You make my job as President a lot easier and rewarding.

I have attached a copy of my report that I prepared for the Annual General meeting of AGS.

I have just learned that Brian Dobing is leaving Lethbridge and is moving to Edmonton in the near or present future. Brian, I take time to thank-you for volunteering to keep the volunteer sign up board and collecting those names and all your great ideas. I wish the best with your move. Spoil those Grandchildren and enjoy your new house. –President Barry Simmonds

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meeting in January was held on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Dr. Tom Johnson gave a presentation on How the Dominion Lands Act was a part of Settling Our Prairies.

At our February meeting we tried to do a Legacy Webinar recording “10 Things to do before you leave the Library or Archive”. But due to technical difficulties we could not present it. A link was sent out to the members to view at their leisure.

For our monthly meeting to be held on Thursday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. our presenter will be David Tyler who will present information on “Why History is a Vital Tool in Genealogy?” Velda has attached his bio to this announcement, and we are all very familiar with this presenter as he has presented to our group in the past.

Lethbridge Family History Centre Hours

Lethbridge Family History Centre is open Wednesday mornings from 9:30 – 12:00 p.m. (You may call for an appointment 403 327-6797.)

Irish Research & Genealogy Websites

Prime Criteria for Genealogical Research

First locate the geographical area of your earliest known branch of the family, also the geographical origin of the earliest known ancestor.

1. We must first become familiar with existing classes of source material in each of the principle public and private repositories of historical and genealogical records in Ireland.
2. Know the extent or location of each collection of the class of records you choose to investigate.

3. Important to know the history of Ireland, as it helps to understand what records may be available. Helps to understand the circumstances that your ancestors may have lived in.

Identifying Elements: Life elements—who were their parents or other identifying elements to differentiate them from another individual (especially if they have the same name as your ancestor). For e.g. a combination of names, dates, places and relationships which distinguish one person from another. This helps a researcher tracing the right ancestral line. Remembering to work from what is known to what is unknown. Do as much research for e.g. in North America before researching in Ireland. Have your feet on firm ground first before venturing on.

Researching in Ancestor's New Homeland: Check out census records, civil registration (vital records), parish records if known, homestead records—land records, immigration and naturalization records, local history books for family histories and biographies, school records, newspapers (obituaries), cemetery records, probate (wills), other court records, city directories, any legal documents, military records, pension applications etc.

Source Records in Ireland: from 1821 until 1921. Registration--1864 bmd's, non-Catholic marriages 1845 onward.

A systematic government census of the Irish population was taken every 10 years from 1821 until 1911. No census was taken in 1921, due to the War of Independence and the Civil War, but the work of taking census resumed in 1926. All census records from 1926 onward are closed to the public for 100 years in accordance with section 35 of the Statistics Act of 1993. The 1926 census will be released to researchers after 100 years. See www.census.nationalarchives Other Church/parish records of religion is known—BMD, Property Records, Military and Police records, State records, Migration records.

Griffiths Valuation records—1847-1864--see www.askaboutireland.ie It's a free search (for best results enter townland name, parish name or county).

Familysearch.org Griffiths Evaluation Office Books--1831-1856 Tithe Applotment Books, 1823-37 see the National Archives of Ireland—see www.titheapplotmentbooks.nationalarchives can search by name of individual (can use wildcards for surnames) and by location. The less information you put in the more numerous results you get.

The most confusing situation in Irish research: Learning to use Griffiths Valuation and Tithe Applotment records but more specifically the loss of records due to records destroyed by Civil War in 1922 and the shredding of records to recycle paper in World War II.

We are very fortunate now to have Beyond 2022 Virtual Archives found on the following website www.nationalarchives.ie. See their historical records: Getting started with archival research, research guides and sources, referencing archives, search the online catalogue. Section on Explore the Collections. Check out their Genealogy Website. This Genealogy Website provides free access to digitized collections that are useful to family and local history research.

Another great Irish website found at www.irishgenealogy.ie offers users a wide range of record sources in their research of their Irish ancestry. Also updates to their civil records (index entry and register image), includes church records available online (pre 20th century church records of baptism, marriage and burial that in many instances pre-date the civil registration.) Family Research 2016 is a free genealogy education web site, and this site is aimed at secondary school students. (Some information taken from the International Institute for Genealogical Studies)

Finding & Writing Your Family's Story

I started writing my family history when I was just 11 years old by starting to write my own personal history and by the time I left for College

I had written 100 type written pages on my Smith Corona typewriter. My mother had written the first six years of my life and I continued, on from there updating it every year. I was so grateful that I had done that because it provided a lot of family background information about my immediate and my extended family life.

While attending BYU I took a genealogy course to learn how to do research. After I returned home, I started researching my family tree by going to the Genealogy Library which it was known by at that time and started researching using microfilms that I had ordered in from the Family History Library in Salt Lake. At that time, I started spending more time with my family and decided that I wanted to learn more about them, so I decided to take an in-depth correspondence course through BYU on Oral and Family History. Once receiving my correspondence course in the mail, I then spent the next four months arranging oral history interviews with my family starting with my grandmother and with all my extended family.

My focus at this time was to do an in-depth oral history project for my main course assignment on my maternal great grandparents who had immigrated from Parker Freemont Idaho to homestead, in Stavely, Alberta in 1904. This was an incredible experience for me as I began to learn more about their lives and what life was like for them in the time in which they lived.

I brought in microfilms on the Church records in Claresholm which included the members of the Church who were living in Stavely as well. I learned that my great

grandmother Effie Maude (Simpson) Oviatt was a woman's leader in the Claresholm LDS Ward.

When this oral history project was completed. I had about 100 pages, completely footnoted, indexed with maps, and photographs of my family. That Christmas I presented all my extended family members with a copy of that printed oral history, even those extended family who lived far away. I still look at that oral history project with special memories of my family and I still have all the tapes even though my grandmother and my mother and all my extended family have since passed on. This experience gave me a springboard to doing other oral histories in my professional life, first with the University of Lethbridge transcribing for a female professor for two years and then I was hired to transcribe 70 hours of interviewing audio pioneer oral histories with the Coyote Flats Museum. (Spotlight: Susan Haga)

Hungary Genealogy Websites

GenealogyAustria.com

<https://www.genealogyaustria.com>

WorldGenWeb Country Landing Pages

<https://www.worldgenweb.net>

Hungary Genealogy links

www.familysearch.org

Hamburg Pass Lists 1850-1934, Indexes & Images. www.familysearch.org

Hamburg Passenger Lists: Handwritten Indexes 1855-1934 (images) www.familysearch.org
Auswandererlisten 1850-1934 (Hamburg Pass Lists) www.familysearch.org

German's and Hungarians 1828 Land (FS) Census Vols 1-25 Digital Online Library

Austro-Hungarian Empire Genealogy
Church Record Translations (Hungarian, Latin & Slovak) www.familysearch.org

Researching the Hungarian Family Lines
www.pricegen.com

National Archives of Hungary Building
State Archives in Budapest, Hungary
<https://mnl.gov.hu> The National Archives of Hungary is the nations record keeper!

Obtaining Vital Statistics Certificates from Hungary <https://ottawa.mfa.gov.hu>
How Can I apply for a certificate? The request for obtaining a Hungarian vital statistics certificate may be submitted in person in Ottawa, in Toronto, in Montreal, in Vancouver or during extramural consular days. It can also be mailed-in, to the Embassy (299 Waverly Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0V9). Have your signature authenticated on a mailed-in application by honorary consul or Canadian Notary often it's free, check the above website.

Radixindex: Hungarian and Central European Genealogy and Local History. (Databases for Hungarian Genealogy & Local History.) <https://www.radixindex.com>

Hungary Resources <https://feefhs.org>
Basic Information, maps and gazetteers
Genealogy links, societies and organizations
(Compiled By Susan Haga)

Finland Websites

Finland Gen Web
<http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com~finwgv/>

Finland Gen Web
<http://www.open.org/~rumcd/genweb/finn.ht>

[ml](#)
Geneological Society of Finland (English)
<http://www.genealogie.fi/>

Emigrant Tracking
http://personal.inet.fi/yhdistys/centralin/swe/emigrant_intro.htm (Finnish and Scandinavian)

Finland Area
www.genealogytoday.com/genealogy/planet.mv?gc=FIN+Location=Finland Genealogy & Registration. Research (a lot of Finnish links.)

Finland Rootsweb
<http://www.nl.bol.com/is-bin/INTERSHOP.enfinity/>

Finnish Genealogy
http://vital-record-resources.suite101.com/article.cfm/finnish_genealogy

Finland Genealogy Links
<http://www.kindredtrails.com/finland.html>

Finland/Suomi
<http://www.cyndislist.com/finland.htm>

Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Parish
<https://evi.fi> Records also at the Finnish National Archives; see index--1527-1921.

HisKi Project
At Geneological Society of Finland index
<https://hiski.genologia.fi> (incomplete)

Church Books at Finland's Family History Association Church Records images.
<https://www.sukuhistoris.fi>

Digihakemisto <https://dihakemisto.net>
(Digihakemisto (Digital Directory)). It's a free genealogy website for Finnish family history records including church/parish records, court, government records. It also helps you to find records in the National Archives of Finland. (See Church Records at Digihakemisto.)

<https://digiheksido.net/ainaisto/320091697>

The alphabetical index of the life books of the city of Vyborg—Text Search can be found in the archive of the life writer of the city of Vyborg. There are numerous of them to search through. Then after all of this the other parishes begin in alphabetical order from Ahlaiten parish archive through Ypaja parish archive.

Digital Directory –Text Search

To the front page of the directory:

Here you can search the description information stored in the digital directory. Then search thru all the archives and it will display all the pages with the given search text in the description. This can be used, for example to search for people and places.

In the Archive field, you can also limit the search to the desired archives. In this field you can write a word in the name of an archive or a book. Sometimes its useful to remove some archives from the search to help narrow down your search.

Search results can also be narrowed down. This works for archive units with years in their names (eg “rippikirja 1855-1863”).

FamilySearch Research Wiki

<https://www.familysearch.org/wiki>

Then see Scandinavia or Northern Europe

--See Finland Genealogy,

--See Finland Genealogical Word Lists

--Finnish, Sweden, Latin

Finland is a Nordic country in Northern Europe bordered by Sweden, Norway, Russia and Estonia. Before 1809-1917 it belonged to the Russian Empire. Finnish and Swedish are the official languages.

See Finland Map

<https://www.familysearch.org/wiki>

The map is organized based on county boundaries pre-1997. For parishes see each county page or the Finnish Parish List. types of genealogical records. (Compiled By Susan Haga)

Getting the Most Out of a Census Records

By Thomas MacEntee, of Genealogy Bargains

Census records are one of the most important types of genealogical records, containing a wealth of information you may not find in vital records and allowing you to track your ancestors’ progress over time. While most genealogists focus on the major content in a census record (birthplace, age, relationships), a more thorough process can help you extract much more and expand your genealogy research.

Why Census Records Are Important in Genealogist Research

For many genealogists searching for their US ancestors, a census record is typically the first type of record to appear in a basic search on most genealogy platforms.

Depending upon the type of census record and the census date, you can locate information that places an ancestor in a specific location on a specific date as well as others in that ancestor’s household.

US Decennial Census: per Article 3 of the United States Constitution, a “headcount” of “residents” is to be taken every ten years. The Population Schedule is the most useful of all the decennial census schedules. And since the first census conducted in 1790, the information gathered has expanded to include education, employment and more.

US Census Schedules: depending upon the specific decennial census, you may find specialized schedules such as Agriculture, Business, Mortality and others. Usually, the entries are referenced in the Population Schedule.

Territorial and State Census: some of the states conducted their own censuses, often “on the fives” meaning a year ending in 5 in between each decennial census. Territorial Census were often conducted before a state was admitted to the Union, especially as a means of determining if the territory met the maximum population requirement.

Understand the History and Background of Each Census and its Respective Records

Not all censuses are the same, especially for United States censuses. Each decennial census had its own sets of questions, enumerator instructions and even method of carrying out the enumeration process.

Don’t assume that, for example, the 1940 US Census is the same as the 1930 US Census. Here are some resources to understand each census.

FamilySearch Wiki: This website is very similar to Wikipedia, with a collection of close to 100,000 articles related to all aspects of genealogical research.

United States Census Bureau: The Census Bureau has a vibrant History section covering all aspects of the US Census. Each decennial census has an overview, index of questions, census forms, enumerator instructions and more.

IPUMS USA: The “Integrated Public Use of Microdata Series” contains resources related to

16 of the decennial censuses through 2010 including the American Community Survey.

Consider creating a “census research toolbox” as a place to save links to specific resources. A great format is a **Census Research folder** in your internet browser Favorites or Bookmarks.

Search Tips for Locating Census Records

While census records are often the first type of record located while doing a general search on a genealogy platform, you may need to be flexible with your search methodologies if you just can’t find that record.

Search broad, then go narrow. Very often genealogists try to use a very narrow search to locate census records. Sometimes too much information causes you to overlook the record you want. Start with name, location, and a birthdate.

Then use the edit search or filter feature to narrow down the search results.

Don’t use exact names...be flexible! Many genealogy sites will allow you to search for a given name and surname variations. Remember that often the enumerator wrote down how a name sounded, especially for immigrant families.

See **Guessing a Name Variation** at the FamilySearch Research Wiki.

Use the card or collection catalog. Narrow search results to a specific census, and then review the list of census databases via site’s list of databases. Then select the database and search within only that record set.

Browse the record images. A searchable index to a census record set may contain errors. As a last resort, identify the enumeration district where

your ancestor SHOULD be listed, and BROWSE through the set of images.

Access, Download, Cite, Rename, and Preserve: When you locate a census record that you want to use in your research, the following steps should be taken.

Access: For most genealogy record sites, there is a record and an image for each search result. The record contains a transcript of the information, source citation, a link to the specific record database, a list of related or suggested records, and a link to the record image.

Download: Save the census record image to your computer or your cloud file program. Always save record images right away since some record databases have limited licenses with the genealogy platform. In addition, always save a copy OUTSIDE of the genealogy platform so that you have an easily accessible copy.

Cite: Crafting a source citation sounds difficult, but it really isn't. Think of yourself as a genealogy journalist reporting on the census record. This means stating the "Who, What, Where, When, and Why" much like a news reporter would do.

Get the basics in writing such as "1940 United States Federal Census, New York, New York, New York, Population Schedule" for AUSTIN Alfred, MyHeritage (online database). () accessed 24 Jan 2022.

An alternative would be to use the "Cite this record" function available on the MyHeritage record page and copy the citation information.

Rename: Once you have downloaded the census record image, rename the file using your preferred naming convention. The goal: you should know what is in that file without having to open it. For our example I use **AUSTIN Alfred b1916 1940 US Federal Census Population Schedule 19400401**.

Preserve: Make sure you are using the 3-2-1 Backup Method to preserve your work and ensure future access. This means:
--3 different backup copies, --2 different storage media; and --1 cloud storage platform

A good example would be creating three copies of the file and storing them in three different locations; then making sure at least two of the copies are on a different storage media such as one on a USB flash drive and the other on a portable solid-state drive; and finally upload one copy to a site like Dropbox or Google Drive.

These steps are a good strategy for ANY genealogy record you locate online. And execute these steps RIGHT AWAY! Don't tell yourself, "Oh, I'll do the source citation later" or "I'll rename that file later." Do it now and you'll easily locate what you need related to that record in the future.

Extracting Census Information When working with a census record your goal should be to extract as much information as possible. One method is to use a tracking system such as the [Genealogy Research Log](#) or you could do a "census "abstract" which uses a fillable blank population schedule for a specific decennial census.

Many genealogists prefer the abstract method since it is easy to isolate the information for a specific person or family. FamilySearch has a

series of fillable forms (requires the free version of Adobe Acrobat.)

Look for the “Not So Obvious”

Another reason why I use a To-Do-List and a genealogy research log is to track every bit of information found on a census record and to formulate theories about new information and where those clues might lead to new records.

Street Name: Did the street name change over time? Does the street exist today (Use Google Maps and Street View).

Dwelling Number: If the family lived in an apartment building, often there will be one dwelling number with multiple family numbers. For immigrant families, review the entire set of families in the building and see who spoke the same language, was born in the same country, etc. This is valuable F.A.N. Club information (“Friends, Associates, and Neighbors”) for cluster research.

House Information: Did your ancestor own their own home and if so, what was the value? Or did they rent an apartment and what was the monthly rent. This information is a good indicator of their economic status at the time.

Relationship to Head of the Household:

For certain censuses the enumerator was limited in the ways to describe a relationship. So, a “cousin in-law” might be listed as a “boarder” or a “roomer” or “lodger.”

Marital Status: Often a woman separated from her husband would be listed as a “widow” rather than “divorced” which brought a negative reputation in some small towns. Search for the husband and you may

find him living a few towns over or even in a nearby county with another woman and family.

Education: Prior to the mid-20th century, many people only completed the 8th grade of school and then went to work to support the family. For those completing high school look for university records.

Occupation: Trace an ancestor’s occupation over time also, see who else on the page had the same occupation. There may be a F.A.N Club clue which can help break down a research brick wall.

Miscellaneous Information: Each census asked specific questions such as “Do you own a radio” in the 1930 US Census. Review the list of questions for each census and see what insights the responses might bring. (© 2024, copyright Thomas MacEntee. All rights reserved. For more information, please visit Genealogy Bargains)

Francis (Frank) Easton Founding Member Passes Away

Francis (Frank) Easton was born in 1935 on a farm in South-Eastern Saskatchewan. He graduated from Wawota High School in 1954. He died November 9, 2023.

He had a lifetime interest in genealogy and family history. He seriously spent time studying his own ancestors in 1965 which continued to his death. Frank was one of the 9 founding members of Alberta Genealogical Society. In 1974/1975 he served as AGS second President.

He continued to be active in the Society until his death. At the AGS 50th Anniversary Conference held at the Edmonton Inn, September 23, 2023, he was awarded a 50- year membership Founding Member plaque as one of only two remaining founding members of AGS as stated in this

previous article from Relatively Speaking. I have thought upon reading this article to take a moment to express my deep appreciation to Francis' family for the fifty years of dedicated service as a respected and valued member of AGS that Frank provided and to Frank if he is in hearing range somewhere at this time hearing my words.

I chose to include this in our newsletter because I remember so well the last time that I saw and spoke to him in our AGS Library while we were able to have a short and yet memorable chat towards the end of my term as AGS Provincial President then in 2016. I will always remember that day. We both spoke about the responsibility of being President of Alberta Genealogical Society and the weight that it carries as he, spoke of his time being President. He said that the Presidents today have a lot more responsibility on their shoulders than even he had during his term as President. I mostly just sat and listened but so appreciated that visit and will always remember that day with fondness. (Respectfully, Susan Haga).

AGS GENEALOGY FAIRE

DATE: SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 2024

Registration: Opens at 8:15 a.m.

Registration is free!

LOCATION

3002 – 47th Avenue,
Red Deer, Alberta
(Church of Jesus Christ of
Latter-day Saints)

For more information see
<https://rdfamilyhistoryfair.blogspot.com/>

Sponsored by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Red Deer Stake and Alberta Genealogical Society Red Deer Branch

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING!

Saturday, April 27, 2024

Time: 3:00 – 4:00 p.m.

A huge Thank you to Diane L and AGS-Red Deer Branch for helping to organize the Faire!

Branches and SIGs

If you'd like to display your branch or SIG, please request a table at following website
<http://tinyurl.com/RDAGSFaireTableRequest>

LUNCH!!

This is Bring Your Own Lunch! Faire.

The gym will have tables for everyone to sit and enjoy their lunch and talk with others. Check out the lunch-time activities.

FamilySearch app

We hope you will find cousins while at the Faire. We will use the "Relatives Around Me" to find them. If you have your family tree on FamilySearch, then download one of the Family Tree apps you can find there to install on your phone.

WELCOME TO OGS CONFERENCE 2024

Register now for the Ontario Genealogical Society's Conference 2024

<https://conference2024.ogs.on.ca>

**An Interactive at the OGS Conference
Engage, Enjoy--Taking place in
Toronto June14-16 2024.**

**This will be the first in-person, OGS,
Conference in five years, with an
emphasis on doing!!**

Please be sure to register in advance—we will not be able to accept registrations on site at the Conference 2024!

Check out our FAQ page for answers to our most frequently asked questions, and don't hesitate to contact us if you are not finding what you are looking for –we're here to help!

Not able to join us at the Conference in person? Then enjoy our virtual Bonus Tracks content for just \$125. Watch the latest insider Vlog with Michael Nettleton for more information.

See our website for our Conference Schedule for an at-a-glance overview and plan your session choices using our handy registration brochure. To sign-up, just click on the Register Now button above.

Genealogy Humor

--Family Tree Research is one giant step backwards and one giant step forward—usually at the same time.

--“Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please.”—Mark Twain

--Great genealogist are time travellers

--After 30 days, unclaimed ancestors will be discarded or claimed by another family.

--An in-law is someone who has married into your family; an outlaw is an in-law who resists letting you do their genealogy

--Remember that when a family member passes away, they take a library of memories with them.

--It's a genealogist's duty to record them before that happens.

--If your family members won't talk about a particular relative, a seasoned genealogist knows they are keeping mum about very interesting.

--Moment of Truth for a genealogist: discovering you are your own cousin.

--If you don't know who the family black sheep is, it's probably you.

--The kind of ancestors you have is not as important as the kindness of their descendants.

--Many genealogists neglect telling their own stories, while in the middle of telling the stories about others. Don't let that happen to your family.

--Genealogy is like a magic mirror. Looking it, and pretty-soon, interesting faces appear.

--Genealogists don't get Alzheimer's they just lose their census.

--Genealogical enigma: How so many published trees record people who died before they were born.

--Murphy's Law of Genealogy: Your ancestor's maiden name will be recorded on the one record page that is missing!

--I love history, but I dislike genealogy.” Don't you want to tell these people that genealogy is family history.

Genealogists never fade away; they just lose their roots.

Family history is all about recording “his story and her story.”

I cannot find my ancestors I heard that they are in the witness protection program!

--Can a first cousin once removed be returned!

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