

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
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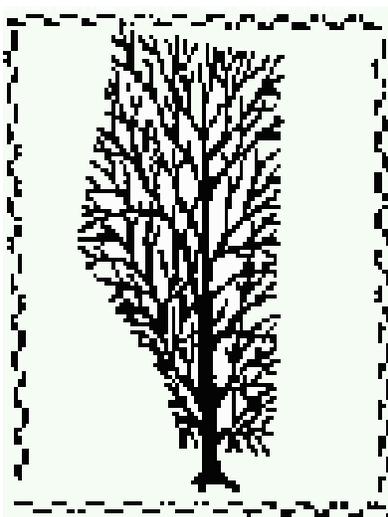


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Editor's Corner



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

Lethbridge A.G.S. Branch Hours

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

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

Address: 1:28; 909 – 3rd Avenue North.

Phone: (403) 328-9564 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

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Newsletter Editor	Susan Haga
Programs	Susan Haga
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Past Presidents	Nestor Martinez, Susan Haga,
Advisory Group	E. McMurchy, Pat Barry, Phyllis Burnett & Win Evans

President's Message

Well as usual I'm late getting this to the Editor. The GenFair in Drayton Valley was held Saturday, April 23rd. The keynote speaker Ronald Kelland gave an excellent presentation on Alberta Geographic Place Names.

Following the GenFair, the AGS Annual General Meeting was held, although we struggled to get a quorum. The Annual report was presented, the financial statement given and approved, the budget was approved and the election results announced. The new AGS President is Bob Franz from Brooks, the Treasurer is Marion Rex of Edmonton, Norma Wolowyk was elected Secretary for a one year term (finishing the previous secretary's term). Susan Haga becomes the Immediate Past President.

Our Branch will be working the local casino on 9/10 June2016. The funds from this casino will help our Branch provide better service to the public and our members.

A committee has been put together to plan the Branch's 40th anniversary in 2017. If you have any suggestions pass them onto to Phyllis or to me.

A very big thank you to all our volunteers, you've done a great job.

Lastly as it appears that summer is here. I would wish everyone a safe and wonderful summer. If you are doing research, I hope you can break down a few brick walls.

The Branch Resource Centre will be closed to the public during July and August. President, Doug Mcleod.

Monthly Meetings

On Thursday April 21th at 7:00 p.m. we had Bev Atherstone Muendel a member of our Branch give us a presentation on her ancestral research in Sweden. On Thursday May 19th at 7:00 p.m. Belinda Crowson from Sir Alexander Galt Archives gave us a presentation on the History of Children in Lethbridge in the 1890's. For June we are busy working a few days at the Casino, our first one so we will not be having a monthly meeting. On October 22 we will be having our annual International Dinner and Belinda Crowson will be speaking on Ghost Stories and Legends of Lethbridge.

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

Summer Hours: The Lethbridge Family History Center will open for summer hours on June 7th. It will be open Tues: 9:00-5:00 p.m. and Wed 1:00-9:00 p.m.

Finding Your Ancestors

Write It Up

In order to find your ancestors you need to do things a little different. First try writing your findings in a detailed report. The process of gathering your information, entering it in narrative sequence, citing sources, explaining why you used those sources and what they revealed often points out gaps in your research or gives you new research ideas.

Widen the Search

It might seem unlikely that our ancestors went to church 20 miles away but often the minister covered a large area and the records ended up in a church we wouldn't expect. Keep looking.

Be Repetitive, Ask Again, Search Again, Look Again

Try again later, especially after you've learned more about the family. Maybe you missed it the first time or you'll recognize the neighbors or the lodger as extended family members. Maybe that elderly relative you interviewed didn't understand exactly what you were asking the first time.

Trade Places

Sometimes tough problems require a fresh perspective. Trading roadblock with another genealogist will give you different insight and help you spot gaps in your own research.

Don't Trust Family Lore

Not all family lore is correct--so keep an open mind. Do the research step by step. That way you'll know your history is built on facts.

Get to Know the Experts

If you're polite and patient you'll be surprised at how willing people can be to offer their help and inside knowledge.

Publish Your Case Study

If you did tip #1 and wrote up your research on a particular family and still haven't gotten past your brick wall consider publishing. Polish it up following the guidelines of the genealogical society's journal you are considering and send it in. Editors of these journals are always looking for material and if it is published you will attract the attention of lots of researchers who may be able to help you.

Ask at the Public Library

Contact to the Public Library near you where your ancestor lived. Tell them what you know about that ancestor (don't overwhelm them--pick one ancestor or one nuclear family) and ask for any further information they may have in their collection. Don't forget to offer a donation or to pay what fees they may have. The same idea works with Historical Societies.

Learn to Evaluate Evidence

Be Wary of Women's Ages

Enlist the Help of Local Clergy

If looking for living relatives the clergy is often very helpful. They know the community well and can ask questions without offending. To find the name and address look to a local ethnic church as they often have religious directories from their home country. Or try writing an open letter to 'Parish Priest'.

Understand Why People Would Lie

Usually information given directly by our ancestors are considered primary sources but it is helpful to understand why people might lie. Young men lied in order to be old enough for military service. Older men lied in order to avoid military service. Women lied if they eloped without parental consent. Men lied if they were a great deal older than the very young woman they were marrying.

Learn the Context of the Times

Learn the history and customs of the time and read local histories and newspapers, study historical maps. This will help you understand why your ancestors did what they did.

Learn When to Use a Professional

One time to hire a professional researcher is when you require information that can only be acquired in a far away location. Another is when you require specialized skills or when you have hit a roadblock you can't seem to solve.

Old Newspapers

If you can't find a newspaper in your ancestor's location keep widening the circle. News was shared for a wider distance than you think.

Beware of "et al" or et ux" --basic Latin often found in indexes which mean respectively "and others" and "and wife". This is an indication that other names are included in the body of the document which are not listed in the index.

Make Source Template Labels

It is more than frustrating to have a document and not know exactly what it is or where to find it again. Make sure all your documents are properly labeled before filing (or piling). Make a label template, which can be printed by your computer for each major record type that you frequently come across. On your template have a place for all the repetitive information in that record type. Carry them with you when doing research and fill out, instant source labels.

Keep "To Do" Folders

Have one for ready for each repository you work at--ready to go in an instant.

Ask "Why" "How" or "What" Questions

When interviewing you'll get the best response if you ask questions that begin with "why" "how" or "what".

Learn Legalese

Learn Legalese especially with land records. Learn the meaning of common "legalese" words, which you will come across in these documents.

Identify Records Accurately

Be sure to correctly identify the type of record you are working with. For Example there are at least 13 different types of marriage records from church banns to newspaper accounts to the words "marriage record" doesn't cut it.

Go Unplugged

We use the internet so much that on occasion we miss resources available without the internet. Occasionally pretend the internet doesn't exist. How would we tackle the problem? Write a letter/visit the cemetery/order a film????

Learn Privacy Closure Rules

Every location has their own privacy laws and limits. Understand what they are for the location you are researching. Records after those dates will not be available.

Props

When interviewing a prop such as a picture, letter or heirloom seems to help shift the focus from the person being interviewed to the item and thus open memories more easily.

Don't Assume Relationship

In a census, unless specifically stated, don't assume relationships. Household members are often listed out of order and it's hard to tell who

is single or married, who are children or who are the in-laws.

Have Change Handy

With the use of debit, credit and copy cards don't assume that you won't need money. These systems have a way of breaking down so always have a few quarters with you.

Learn Effective Ways To Contact Strangers

It doesn't matter if you are contacting someone in person, on the phone, e-mailing or writing a letter. Be polite, prepare in advance, give enough information so it is understood what you need but don't overwhelm them with irrelevancies and keep the attitude that you are asking for a favor not for something that you deserve.

Record Your Failures

Keep track of all searches, successful and failures. Keep track of what you did and did not find. This will save you from having to re-read the same books or films or having to re-search the same databases.

Learn How to Date Old Photos

Figuring out when a photo was taken can be the first step in identifying who is in it. Things like hairstyles, clothing styles, neckties or beards can all date when a photo was taken. There are several publications, which can help.

Baptism Date Does Not Equal Birth Date

Usually children were baptized shortly after birth but not always. Sometimes children were several years old when baptized. Record the baptisms date as a baptism date not as a birth date.

Other Sources

Ask the Postmaster

If you're looking for living relatives or families of those who may have died a few years ago ask the postmaster for help.

Add to Your Toolbox

You may need to buy guides to help you learn how to use new records, take courses, attend conferences, learn about new technology, take guided tours of new libraries and archives to learn about their resources.

Signup for Newsletters Join a Historical Society

Study Finding Aids and Record Descriptions

Titles are often misleading so read all you can before you start using a new kind of record so you can understand how and why it was created, what was included and what was not and a detailed description of the records themselves.

Clergy Private Papers

Academic Journals and Thesis

Collect Maps

Interlibrary Loan

Tax Records

Specialized Libraries

There are many different specialized libraries. Large genealogy libraries (Allan County Public Library in Fort Wayne, Indiana (PERSI collection). Genealogy Society libraries (OGS). Lineage based libraries (Daughters of the American Revolution Genealogical Library) Historical Society Libraries, Religious organization libraries (Samuel Colgate Historical Library which specializes in American Baptist history).

Border/ocean crossings

Bureaucracies, Chamber of Commerce,

Church Census and membership lists

State , local, church or school censuses]

City Directories, Biographies

Cemetery Records/Burial Records & etc.

(Written by Monta Salmon, Lethbridge Family History Consultant)

Finger Tip Facts on Early Lethbridge

Money

People who had property in the town of Lethbridge in 1898 paid a property tax. A news item of December 29, 1898 listed the names and the amount of taxes due. Under \$10.00 were not listed. The highest taxes listed were for \$24.60 for property owned by W.D. Barclay, Sarah Cavanah and R.E. Sherlock. McNabb was to pay \$22.50, while the Roman Catholic Mission was billed at \$19.00.

Wages in 1900 reflect the economy of the time. A stone clerk or bookkeeper was highly paid at \$60.00 a month. In the trades, a carpenter could expect to be paid 25 cents an hour, a brick layer 50 cents, while a laborer would get 15 to 20 cents an hour, a man and team could figure on \$2.50 per day. Coal miners were paid 50 cents a ton.

The 1901 Census of Canada asked the yearly

income. Some figures given were \$920 and \$825. This was for Lethbridge.

In response to these income figures, new food prices for 1901:

Potatoes \$1 to \$2 per 100 lb sack

Sugar \$6.50 per 100 lb sack

Flour \$265 per sack

Ham 16 cents a pound

Beef 7 cents - 15 cents a pound

Mutton 8 cents - 15 cents per pound

Fresh pork 15 cents per pound

Butter 30 cents to 35 cents per pound

Eggs --summer 20 cents a dozen

Eggs--winter 50 cents a dozen

Coal delivered cost \$6.00 for 2 tons or \$3.50 for one ton.

The first dairy farms supplying milk, cream and butter were Duff's at the south, McKenzie's to the north, and Walwork's to the east. October 14, 1913 notice--The price of milk is going up. The new price will be 10 quarts for \$1.00. The price had been 12 quarts for \$1.00.

In 1913 a new national holiday was declared, Thanksgiving Day would be October 12.

October 19, 1913 - the Lethbridge Hotel advertised a special dinner for Thanksgiving Day. The price was 50 cents. The menu spring lamb, prime rib, young turkey or ham, accompanied by oysters on the half shell, consomme royale, vegetables and a selection of desserts from English plum pudding with brandy sauce to pistachio jelly!

December 23, 1913 - Pat Burns Store advertised turkeys 24 cents per pound. Fresh Japanese oranges 65 cents a box.

March 13, 1909 - For sale; a farm containing 355 acres, more or less situated on the Belly River five miles west of Lethbridge. 25 acres broken, 6 acres in fall wheat, four-roomed house, sheds, all fenced. \$6000 or \$18 an acre.

(Written by Avice Frayne Anderson)

How Old is Grandma

One evening a grandson was talking to his grandmother about current events.

The grandson asked his grandmother what she thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general.

The Grandma replied, "Well let me think a minute. I was born before television, penicillin,

polio shots, frozen foods, Xerox, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill.

"There was no radar, credit cards, laser beams or ball-point pens. Man had not invented pantyhose, air conditioners, dishwashers, clothes dryers, and the clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and man hadn't yet walked on the moon.

"Your Grandfather and I got married first - and then lived together. Every family had a father and a mother.

"Until I was 25, I called every man older than I, 'Sir' and after I turned 25 I still called policemen and every man with a title, 'Sir'. This was before gay rights, computer-dating, dual careers, daycare centers, and group therapy.

"Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment, and common sense. We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

"Serving your country was a privilege; living in this country was a bigger privilege. We thought fast food was what people ate during Lent.

"Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with your cousins. Draft dodgers were people who closed their front doors when the evening breeze started. Time-sharing meant time the family spent together in the evenings and we never heard of FM radios, tape decks, CDs, electric typewriters, yogurt, or guys wearing earrings. We listened to the Big Bands, Jack Benny, and the Queen's speeches on our radios. And I don't ever remember any kid blowing his brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey. If you saw anything with 'Made in Japan' on it, it was junk. The term 'making out' referred to how you did on your school exam. Pizza Hut, McDonald's, and instant coffee were unheard of.

"We had 5&10 cent stores where you could actually buy things for 5 and 10 cents. Ice cream cones, phone calls, rides on a street car, and Pepsi were all a nickel. And if you didn't want to splurge you spent your nickel on enough stamps to mail 1 letter and two postcards. You could buy a new Chevy Coupe for \$600 but who could afford one? Too bad because gas was only 11 cents a gallon.

"In my day, 'grass' was mowed, 'coke' was a cold drink, 'pot' was something your mother cooked in, and 'rock music' was your grandmother's lullaby. 'Aids' were helpers in the Principal's office, 'chip' meant a piece of wood, 'hardware' was found in a hardware store, and 'software' wasn't even a word. And we were the

last generation to actually believe that a lady needed a husband to have a baby.

"No wonder people call us "old and confused" and say there is a generation gap.....and how old do you think I am???.....I bet you have this old lady in mind...you are in for a shock!" Read on to see pretty scary if you think about it and pretty sad at the same time.

This Woman (at time of this article) would be only 59 years old!....Born in 1944. (No author given found in Lethbridge Herald Sept 22, 2003)

Death After Taxes: Wills, Cemeteries, Tombstones, and Obituaries (The Birth That We Call Death)

With the onset of written records in the history of man, death records have been a significant addition to locating our ancestors. Death may be the last event of a man's mortal life, but it may be the first evidence we find of our ancestor. Because it is the most recent event in a person's life, it can be the definitive event that gives us accuracy in our research.

When we discover the death of an ancestor we should look for information about the individual.

- Was there a death certificate?
- Were death registrations filled out?
- Where is the person buried?
- Was there an obituary?
- Did the person belong to a church?
- Was there a will?
- Was there a probate?
- Was the person in the military?
- Did the individual belong to a guild?

Answers to any of these questions may lead you to finding other information or records about the individual.

Beware! When this event is recorded about an individual, we must remember that it may not be the most accurate information. Family members are grieving. We don't always know who supplied the information regarding the deceased. If the information comes from newspapers, there could be typo errors.

There are many types of records surrounding the death of an individual that may help us learn more about our ancestor. When needing more information about the death, look for some of the following:

- **Death Registration**--was there a **death registration** form or an original record? Most death certificates are a condensed

- version of the information about the individual. Registrations and original copies have much more information.
- **Cemetery Records** may have individual information about each individual buried there.
 - **Burial Permits** were sometimes required before a person could be buried.
 - **Death Notices** are a free public service usually in newspapers to inform people affected by the death of an individual such as debt requirements before an estate can be finalized.
 - **Tombstone Inscriptions** could provide information.
 - **Body Transit Records** were sometimes required to move a body to a different location where the death occurred. This was to prevent communicable diseases from deceased. They can provide information regarding the entire family.
 - **Obituaries** are biographical in nature. They provide information about an individual and are usually found in local newspapers.
 - **Pension Records** are valuable in providing information about an individual.
 - **Wills and Probates** are records providing information about the deceased and any estate surrounding the individual. They often provide info. about the family for several generations.
 - **Military Records** provide personal data and usually include a will in case of death.
 - **Necrology Records** are lists of people who died during a certain period of time and include the deceased name, residence, date of death, and often any significant details such as professional information, religion, education, etc.
 - **Social Security** will provide information about an individual's work record, residence, etc.
 - **Coroners Records** provide information regarding the death and may have some details.
 - **Family Bibles** often provide death information.
 - **Codicils** are documents made following the original will and are the additions made.
 - **Tombstone Symbols**

Many tombstones were engraved with symbols alongside the deceased's personal data. These symbols often represented the life of the person and can lead us to locating other types of records. For eg: Tree Stump: the loss of the head of the family and usually indicates occupation of woodsman. Open Book: Teacher, Open Bible: Preacher, Stalk of Corn: farmer.

Causes of Death

Determining the cause of death can provide insight into the life of a family. For eg: Lead poisoning. Glazes and paints were full of lead as well as some of the early salts used for medicinal purposes. When in paint or glazes, it can lead to information about the working life of the individual which in turn could lead to occupational records. (Written by Val Duncan, Lethbridge Family History Center (Executive).

A Cemetery I Never Considered

Several years ago I went on a short family excursion to Saskatoon for a family funeral. On the way there we decided we would make it a genealogy trip as well. We knew that there was a family farm located along the way so we decided to go and visit it. We had been told by family members that there was a small family cemetery located on the homestead. After following the directions we had been given we did in fact find this homestead and were able to locate this small family cemetery located on this property with ancestral members of our family buried there.

After taking some pictures of the graves and recording the names of the people who were buried there we were soon on our way. We then drove down the hill from this family homestead that we had just visited and since it was a beautiful day I decided to take in some of the scenery. After traveling for only a short while I decided to look out the driver's window and as I looked across the road I noticed some white wooden crosses alongside in the ditch barely visible to my view. I yelled "Stop the car! stop the car! There is something I want to see!"

When the car finally came to a stop and parked I quickly opened the door and I dashed out across the street and there in this ditch were 6 white wooden crosses all outside of the wire fence of this farmer's field. Unbelievably all six of these crosses bore the names of our ancestors. I didn't believe it! Of course I was excited and took pictures as well as recording their names. But I kept wondering why on earth were they

buried there. However, I was very happy to have found them and happy that I chose to look out the window at that exact moment as we were driving by.

Upon arriving at the funeral and meeting our family in Saskatoon we discussed this amazing occurrence with them and to this day we do not know why these 6 people were buried there. I am still so amazed that I had decided to look out the car window at that exact moment or I would have missed it entirely. (Written by Susan Haga)

A Blast From the Past--Eaton's Catalogue

In Days Before Plastic

In days before plastic a young couple could flip through the Eaton's catalogue, looking for what they needed to outfit their new home. If they had the cash they could furnish the whole house for \$258.37. There evidently were no shipping charges for delivery to Barons. There was even a cash refund of \$13.10. Mr. and Mrs. John B. Turner, eventually of Lethbridge, were parents of Mary Fleming, who submitted this bill. It must be supposed it was kept for reference since February, 1914.

T. Eaton Co. Limited Canada Feb 1914

Set of Knives	\$5.00
Set Teaspoons	.90
Set of Knives and Forks	\$1.20
Round Ext. Table	\$10.45
Kitchen Cabinet	\$20.90
Rocker	\$7.90
Table Mahogany	\$4.55
Chairs	\$5.62
Dresser	\$15.60
Bedstead	\$4.95
Spring	\$4.60
Mattress	\$7.15
Seamstress Machine	\$27.60
Picture Frame	\$1.35
Blinds	\$1.80
Rods	\$.50
Bedroom Curtains	\$2.50
Rugs	\$4.20
Pair of Blankets	\$1.25

(Found in Lethbridge Herald Sept 2003)

Family History Mobile Apps

- **FamilySearch Tree**--is a mobile companion to FamilySearch Family Tree. Attach photos, stories and documents to those in your tree. Automatically sync your photos and

documents with FamilySearch.org. This app gives you quick access to ancestor information along with photos and other related documents.

- **FamilySearch Memories**--Similar to FamilySearch Tree. Attach photos, stories or audio files. Tag individuals and attach descriptions to photos.
- **Ancestry.com**--View your tree and historical records. Upload photos and stories.
- **Shoebox from Ancestry.com**--scan photos and tag people, dates and location. Unlimited free photo storage.
- **MyHeritage.com**--View/edit your tree, capture/share photos and search records
- **FindAGrave**--100 Million+ graves in half a Million cemeteries around the world.
- **BillionGraves**--Search or take photos of headstones, transcribe and upload them.

Genealogy Software APPS

- **RootsMagic**--A viewer that allows you to browse your tree.
- **Legacy Mobile**--
- Create/view/add/synchronize with
- FamilySearch, add photos.

File Storage APPS

These free Apps allow you to store and view photos, documents and videos on any device (smartphone, ipad or PC/Mac). You can also share links to files or backup your smartphone camera photos to the cloud for safe keeping!

- **Dropbox**--2 GB free
- **Google Drive**--30 GB free
- **OneDrive** (formerly SkyDrive)--30 GB
- **Box**--10 GB free

Note Taking Apps

- **Evernote**--60MB/month (Premium add-ons)
- **Microsoft OneNote**--screen views are similar to MS Word on your PC. (Irwin Easthope--Oct 2014--Handout)

Moving from Boring to Hip

So what does it take to move a field like genealogy in its perception by the public from boring to hip. Here are some ideas:

Create An "Under 30" Club" at your Local Genealogical Society

Many non-profits especially opera and symphony societies have experienced tremendous growth by allowing younger patrons access to the same benefits of membership as others by lowering membership price and with special events geared towards their interests.

Use Younger Genealogists as Role Models and Spoke Persons

In your organization's materials including printed versions as well as on-line, make sure to include a balance of young and old.

Go to the Schools Where the Younger Set the Rules

Along with exposing school-aged children to various professional fields, make sure your local district includes genealogists and family historians in such outreach efforts.

Focus On Ancestors When They Were in Their Teens and Twenties

When writing narratives or blog posts, try to highlight ancestors at a time in their lives which young people can relate to. Did Grandpa go off to college or have trouble adjusting when he moved away from home? Did Grandma leave a diary with thoughts on dating?

Don't Be Afraid to Let the Young Lead the Way

Those "whippersnappers" with solid genealogical research and scholarship skills should be allowed to lead and not relegated to just following. Doing so is probably the best way to create a win/win situation for all of us in the genealogy field.

Genealogy can only continue to expand by attracting new participants. And the exchange of information techniques and methodologies between old and young will help keep genealogy a vibrant and engaging hobby. (By Gwen Goth)

Searching for Names

Follow the Females--Usually to find females we need to follow the men in their lives. However at times in order to find the men we need to know the females. Often elderly men went to live with

their daughters, so in order to find death or burial records, wills, obituaries etc. you need to find their daughters. Men tended to migrate with their in-laws so follow their families.

Ignore Surnames--sometimes just looking for the given name will bring success when the surname is illegible, oddly spelt, entered or indexed incorrectly. At times married daughters or remarried widows can be found with this method.

Think Like Soundex--Ignore vowels and the letters H, W and Y (unless they are the first letter in the name then use with extreme care) Treat similar sounding consonants as one sound for e.g. (BFPV) (D,T) (M,N), (C,G, J,K,Q,S,X,Z) for example Campbell can become Gampbel or Kempel or Quimble/Siller can become Cellar.

Focus on Unique Identifiers--Many names are common. If so, focus on unique identifiers for e.g. occupation, religion, middle name, wife's name, birthplace or home location, witnesses. Compare their signature to others with the same name.

Learn Common Nicknames, Short Forms or Interchangeable Names.

Siblings can have the same name.

One Name Studies--If a surname is rare check with the Guild of One Name Studies at <http://one-name.org/> You may be lucky and find a whole group already tracing families with your surname.

Make a collection of and try to think of other possible surname variations

Surnames Can Follow the Female Name--This is unusual but does happen. There are two main reasons for this 1. A child whose birth is illegitimate. 2. In rare cases when the woman has inheritable property and there are no male heirs. There are usually legal papers to document the change in a case like this. (Written by Monta Salmon, Lethbridge Family History Consultant)

European Genealogy Websites

Ask About Ireland www.askaboutireland.ie
See the free version of Griffith's Primary Valuation Resource for 19th century Irish research, it's past time to see the free version.

You'll also find free online services for libraries and cultural information.

Genuki www.genuki.org.uk This volunteer virtual reference library will get you going with all you need to know about genealogy in the UK and Ireland: church history, heraldry, land records, manors, occupations, poorhouses, tax records, even how to decipher your ancestors' handwriting. Regional page links lead to county-by-county pages (pick from a list or click on the map with in-depth local information).

Historical Directories

www.historicaldirectories.org/hd/index.asp

Stumped in your search for families in England and Wales? This digital library of local and trade directories (1750-1919) from the University of Leicester might hold the answer. Find the directory you want by location, decade or keyword.

National Archives of Ireland

www.genealogy.nationalarchives.ie This free site, hosts databases of the 1901 and 1911 Irish censuses, Tithe Applotment Books (1823-1837), soldiers' wills (1914-1917) and the Calendars of Wills and Administrations (1858-1922). The censuses cover all 32 counties and are searchable by all information fields. Still to come are 19th century census survivals (1821-1851), Valuation Office House and Field Books (1848-1860) and more census searches.

National Archives--UK

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

Geneanet

Pursue any of three different paths at this official site. Read how-to information and guidance; search the 11 million documents in the Discovery online catalog; or click over to Access to Archives www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/a2a, where you can comb the holdings of more than 400 other record offices and repositories. If you happen to have black sheep in the family don't miss a fourth option--an online collection of historical criminal records from England and Wales.

Central Europe

The French Genealogy Blog Anne Morddel, author of the book *French Genealogy From Afar* (self-published, gets you started on finding French ancestors) and keeps you up-to-date on

the increasing number of French archives putting records online.

en.geneanet.org/first-step/search-your-french-ancestors Databases here for finding your French families include user-submitted trees, municipal and departmental archives, civil status records.

German Genealogy Home Page

daddezio.com/germgen.html Since 1998, this site has been serving up German genealogy how-to- along with data on surname studies, passenger lists, military records, vital records and more.

German Genealogy Server compgen.de

Don't overlook this site from Germany's Association for Computer Genealogy just because it's in Deutsch. It includes more than 100 mailing lists, the largest and most active German-language genealogy Forum, home pages for more than 35 genealogical societies, digitized books, a gazetteer, a WWI casualty list database, research aids and a wealth of getting started FAQ's. The databases in the affiliated GEDBAS <gedbas.genealogy.net> do have an English interface.

National German Military Grave

Registration Service

www.volksbund.de/en/volksbund.html

Search free for the names of more than 2 million German soldiers dead or missing from World Wars I and II.

Register of Swiss Surnames

www.his-dhs-dss.ch/famn/?lg=e This free database containing almost 50,000 entries covers all the families holding citizenship in a Swiss community as of 1962, with information on the place of origin, naturalization and previous place or country of origin.

Eastern Europe

Access to Russian Archives

online.eastview.com/projects/ticfia This free database contains digital descriptions of 80,000 archival record groups from more than 20 guidebooks on Russian federal archives and 40 regional archives published from 1987-2004. It provides the most comprehensive access to the holding of the entire Russian archive system in one place, with English transliteration.

American Historical Society of Germans From Russia www.ahsgr.org A network of village coordinators can help you find what's available for your ancestral stomping grounds, from census lists to rare surviving church records.

Avotaynu www.avotaynu.com This and other Jewish genealogy sites will obviously be useful to researchers beyond Eastern Europe, but should be of special interest to those seeking ancestors in this part of the continent. Here Jewish genealogy publisher Avotaynu offers the free Consolidated Jewish Surname Index, covering 699,084 surnames in 42 different databases totaling more than 7.3 million records. For \$38 a year, you can also access how-to articles from the journal Avotaynu.

Federation of Eastern European Family History Societies www.feehfs.org Click the Map Library link to get started using the online resources of this essential organization, from maps to how-to guides to databases.

Poland GenWeb

rootsweb.ancestry.com/~polwgv/polandgen.html
This World GenWeb site has a records-transcription project, surname list, translation tools, a guide to using Family History Library microfilm, and links to other online resources (such as town locator tools and message boards).

Polishroots www.polishroots.org Covering not just present-day Poland but all the areas historically part of the Polish Commonwealth, this site shines with its getting-started guide, maps, links and back issues of the Gen Dobry e-zine.

Sezam

baza.archiwa.gov.pl/sezam/sezam.php?l=en
This database from the Polish State Archives can help you locate archival holdings at nearly 100 institutions within the current boundaries of Poland. Start by entering a town name in the "Title of Fond/Name of Creator" blank, then you can limit by type of archive and date range.

Society For German Genealogy In Eastern Europe www.sggee.org Focusing on the genealogy of Germans from Russian Poland and Volhynia, with some help for related regions, this society offers parish records, surnames and scanned maps. Join the society to access even more.

The Mediterranean and Iberia Italian Genealogy Online

www.angelfire.com/ok3/pearlsofwisdom/#HOME
This site offers message boards, tools, a guide to naming patterns, links, FAQ and tips on how to find your family's place of origin.

Italy GenWeb www.italywgw.org Another useful starting place and one of the many country sites under the genealogical umbrella of the World GenWeb, this volunteer site varies in its resources depending on which ancestral place in Italy you're investigating. But it's definitely worth a look for its guides to different record types and general how-to.

Greek Genealogy greekgenealogy.org Start your search for Hellenic kin with Lisa Catsakis' guides to Greek research, a gazetteer and maps, a transliteration chart, links, and info on microfilmed records.

Name Changes of Settlements in Greece

pandektis.ekt.gr/pandektis/handle/10442/4968
Find your ancestral town, which likely changed its name in the 20th century due to war, a coup and/ or Greece's switch to a republic, with this handy tool. Check not only the current town name but also the municipality (dimos), district (eparchia) and country (nomos).

Open Archives openarchives.gr explore 68 collections and almost a half-million records from Greek archives, universities, religious organizations and other institutions. Click EN to view the search options in English.

Genealogia Espanola

www.genealogia-es.com Spain's home in the World GenWeb since 1997, this site is in Spanish--but translate.google.com can help you with that if your high school Spanish is a little rusty. How-to information and links range from old-fashioned heraldry to newfangled DNA research.

Hispanic Genealogy

hispanicgenealogy.blogspot.com Get the inside scoop on FamilySearch's ever-growing collections of Spanish records (as well as those from Latin America) with this in-depth blog from Lynn Turner. No amateur blogger, she holds a degree in family history and genealogy from BYU and works for FamilySearch as a records specialist.

Scandinavia

Arkivalieronline <www.sa.dk/content/dk/aoforside> The Danish State Archives Filming Centre is digitizing parish registers (with images of census pages up next). Almost all Danish parish registers up to 1950 are now online. You'll have to browse them, as there's no search capability, and many show the signs of years of wear and tear.

Arkivdigital <arkivdigital.net> This subscription site (about \$100 for six months) serves up color images of about 45 million Swedish historical documents such as church records, court records and inventories of estates. If you've seen only the black-and-white microfilm, these color images will be an eye opener. (Obtainable through Ancestry.com)

Danish Demographic Database

<ddd.dda.dk/ddd_en.htm> This free site lets you search Danish censuses from 1787 on, plus probate records from Thisted, Viborg, Aalborg and Randers. You can even check censuses from the Caribbean island of St. Croix, taken when it belonged to Denmark.

Danish Emigration Archives

<www.emiarch.dk/search.php3?l=en> Thank the Copenhagen police for this database of 394,000 names of emigrants from Denmark between May 1868 and 1908. They kept tabs on everyone leaving the country--and now so can you. Search the database by any combination name, occupation, age, last residence, parish, county destination (city, state, country), ticket contract number or date of registration. Besides these fields, hits also include birthplace (beginning in 1899), family status, name of the immigration agent and name of the ship. The collection combines direct emigration from Copenhagen and indirect, search a stop in another port, which must be searched separately on microfilm.

Digitalarkivet

<arkivverket.no/eng/content/view/full/629> This is a free site from the National Archives of Norway offers most all the essential resources for finding Norwegian families, with an ever-growing collection of church records addition to its censuses, tax lists, probate records and more. It's also the most English-language-friendly of Scandinavian websites.

Genealogy Society of Norway-Dis

<www.disnorge.no> Click the British flag to see the English-language pages on this site. View a forum, database of researchers and search the tombstone records with photos, links and maps.

Genealogical Society of Finland

www.genealogia.fi/indexgb.html In addition to a forum, publications and how-to, Finnish researchers should check out the society's HisKi project. This ambitious effort is putting Finnish church records online, along with a search capability (still in the testing phase). There's also a tombstone transcription project.

Institute of Migration

www.migrationinstitute.fi/index_e.php Its free to search this institute's collection of 318,000 passenger-list records, 261,000 passport records and other migration resources for your Finnish families. Full access your hits require an annual subscription fee. You'll also find an online library of 9,000 publications about Finnish emigration; a database of 12,000 photos; and the Migration and Ethnicity Research Network, a database of 450 researchers and others interested in migration and ethnicity research in Finland.

Riksarkivet <sok.riksarkivet.se>

Here, Swedish researchers can explore the National Archives database and the Digital Research Room of digitized church archives and censuses. Full access requires a subscription to the SVAR e-service (about \$150 a year).

Swedish Roots <www.genealogi.se/finding-your-swedish-roots>

This step-by-step site from the Federation of Swedish Genealogical Societies will lead you through essential information from understanding patronymics to Swedish correspondence. Once you've got the basics, click on Our Forum to visit Anbytarforum. Posts are in Swedish, but most Swedes will be able to understand queries written in English. (By David A. Fryxell, is tracking down his own and relatives' roots in these countries--Familytree magazine.com--May/June 2014)

Tables Turned

When I was younger I hated going to weddings. It seemed that all of my aunts and the grandmotherly types used to come up to me, poking me in the ribs and cackling. "You're next." They stopped that after I started doing the same thing to them at funerals."