

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
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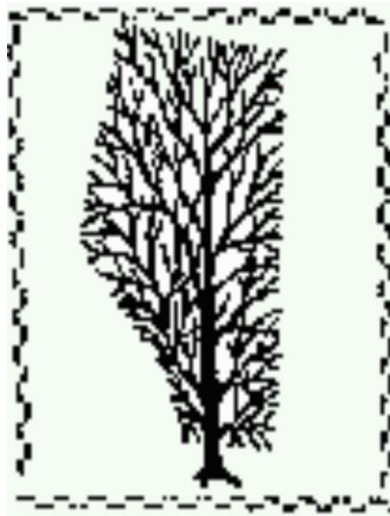


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If you want to submit articles, genealogy humor, interesting web sites or have any queries you want us to print feel free to contact us. You can send your submissions to our library email at lethags@theboss.net or phone (403) 328-9564 for some research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

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President's Message

Well time marches on and it soon will be summertime. I hope all are well. It's been a bad year for the flu and covid, and yes, it is still around! Bad outbreak in Lethbridge as I author this report.

We have kept busy over the last few months re-organizing the books and other things that we have in the library. This project has kept Wendy, Kieran and Julie busy. I have been the sounding board to all about this endeavor.

We have volunteered for 1211 hours to date this year. Thank-you so much for volunteering. In April we volunteered for 332 hours.

Well, we are still looking for a new office. The Bowman Building is on the wait. The City Lands Department is slowly working to rent out the building. At the last meeting it is still progressing, and Council might approve the request to make it a revenue neutral building. We are awaiting the day that will happen. If it does proceed, we will do an analysis to see if its worth a move. And a vote will take place if its affordable.

We have had only one meeting in the past months. Due to the lack of communication the March meeting had to be canceled as our zoom planned link did not work. I was away and could not log into one of my email accounts to pass on the link that had been changed. I am not a fan of zoom anymore. The branch should look at all aspects of our little operation and update it to be compatible with the Edmonton and Grande Prairie email systems. I have put in for an update in the future, as the number of emails and other business records is surpassing a personal email account. This would make it easier for the executive to separate AGS stuff and emails from their personal email account. This also could be used as a record keeping function.

At our meeting in April, we had Elaine Toth present on the" Nikkei Memory Capture Project. Thank goodness that she had access to a zoom account because our zoom link failed.

Three members attended the Gen-Fair that Red Deer AGS and LDS put on jointly. There were some very interesting topics presented. I could only attend 4 of the 8 sessions.

The AGS Annual General meeting followed. The Budget for 2024 was passed. It was decided

to share more funds with the branches to finance their operations better. A new sharing arrangement was passed.

We do have a casino coming up for early September. Doug will be letting everyone know. Please volunteer for this fundraiser.

In a couple of weeks, we will be breaking for the summer. I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer. We will see you in September. —President—Barry Simmonds

Monthly Meetings

For our monthly meeting on Thursday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m. there were a few problems, first we had very inclement weather and chose to have a zoom meeting then we had problems with our zoom link so our presenter 'David Tyler was not able to give his presentation on "Why History is a Vital Tool in Genealogy?"

On Thursday, April 18th for our monthly meeting Elaine Toth presented on the "Nikkei Memory Capture Project". Thank goodness that she had access to a zoom account because our zoom link failed.

In May our monthly meeting presentation was held May 16th at 7:00 p.m. given by Holly Bandelow's on Soles4Soul's Project. [About Soles4Souls Project](#): When people lack the resources to get through today. Its difficult for them to focus on tomorrow. Soles4Souls turns shoes into opportunities for education and employment so they can have a more hopeful future. At Lethbridge Lions we are partnering with Community organizations to collect 25,000 pairs of gently worn men's, women's and children's shoes to lift those who are vulnerable out of poverty around the world.

On June we held a BBQ social which was held at Kathy and Gary Stauffer's residence at 169 Coach Point, West at 5:00 p.m. Everyone was told to bring a guest that may be interested in genealogy! **Food Was Supplied**: beef wieners, punch and ice cream. Otherwise, members were told to bring their own beverage to drink and meat to BBQ.

Note From Editor: If you are interested in being a spotlight for our newsletter and

telling your story of how you started doing genealogy and how you came to join AGS. Please contact me at footprints14@gmail.com. Our other AGS members would enjoy reading about your experiences. Thanks Susan Haga

Lethbridge Family History Centre Hours

Lethbridge Family History Centre is closed for the summer. They are relocating to scenic drive and 28th Street South. They are having an Open House on September 14th and AGS will be having a table there. (Hopefully we can get some new members there).

After You're Gone: Future Proofing Your Genealogy Research--Thomas MacEntee of Genealogy Bargains <https://genealogybargains.com>

Try as we might, we really have little control over what will happen to our possessions, even our bodies, after we die. Yes, we can draw up legal documents, we can express our wishes to our family members and more; however, there are no guarantees when it comes to these matters. The best we can do is prepare, plan and communicate now.

When it comes to your years of genealogy research and material, what plans have you made to ensure that it doesn't die with you? Here's some advice on creating a realistic plan to get your "genealogy affairs" in order so that the next generation of researchers can benefit from your years of hard work.

The Perils of Inaction: Lost Genealogy

To gain some insight as to what could possibly happen to all your genealogy stuff, simply read, the haunting story *Cleaning Mother's House* by genealogist Michael John Neill. As you hear the words, just imagine one of your children or grandchildren being in the same situation and not knowing the importance of your genealogy research.

You have a responsibility to safeguard your research and to make sure it gets passed on properly. If you don't act now, someone else will act on your behalf.

Basic Planning and Data Successorship

How can you create a plan for the future of your genealogy research without knowing what you have? The first step is to create an inventory of ALL your items.

Hard Copy Items

Use a special notebook, a document on your computer, or spreadsheet. Just get it down in writing, also realize that you should update it periodically. Items to include:

- Genealogy research binders, folders and stack of paper
- Genealogy books and magazines purchased over the years
- Photos, slides, negatives, videos, CD-ROMs
- Technology items such as scanners, software programs, flash drives
- Miscellaneous items such as audio recordings, gadgets, etc.

It helps if you label each item or include a note; remember that the person cleaning out your possessions may not be a genealogist.

Digital Items

And what about your genealogy data? You may not realize how much information you have and where it is stored. The easiest way to store all your digital assets is to create two backups: one in the cloud and one on an external drive or CD-ROM.

Online Profiles

More and more, genealogists are leveraging online websites, apps and social media for research purposes and to connect with others. While you may not have valuable information stored at these sites, at a minimum you should allow family members to disable or shut down accounts. This way your followers are informed, and it avoids having these accounts hacked or misused.

Create a list of website names, their URLs (addresses) and login credentials. Keep the

list in a safe place—print out and keep with estate planning papers or store online with a master password to access the list; make sure your executor knows the password.

Working with Societies, Libraries and Archives

There are many “myths” about being able to donate your genealogy to organizations:

--"You can donate all your genealogy ‘stuff’ to the National Archives.”

False: The National Archives is the archivist of record for the United States government; it does not typically archive personal items.

“You can donate your genealogy to the Library of Congress.” **Partially True:** The Library of Congress does accept published genealogies and other items of importance.

If you plan on donating anything related to your genealogy to an archive, a library or a genealogy society, here is the plan you should follow:

--**Contact** the organization. Always check a repository’s policies before making donation, directing your executor to make donation.

--**Inform family members.** Let your family and friends know what your plans are, involving the organization.

--**Include a monetary donation.** It costs money to process donated materials no matter how well organized those items may be. If possible, make sure you include a financial donation to the institution. Another option is to direct your executor to sell off specific items to raise money for preservation of the collection.

Finally, realize that you can always donate items NOW rather than after your passing. By donating now, you have more power to direct how the items will be used, and which organizations can benefit from those items.

Technology to the Rescue

As with other industries and even hobbies, genealogy has moved to the digital realm, for better or for worse. Advantages include the ability to

preserve fragile items through scanning and digitization as well as the ability to share items with other researchers. Disadvantages include the ability to easily delete items with the touch of a key or failing to update technology like moving from floppy discs to flash drives. And there is always the fear of having your digital items stolen or “hacked.”

Best Practices for Genealogy Future Proofing

In summary, here are some tips for future proofing your genealogy research and making sure it is preserved for others to use for generations to come.

--Take inventory. Determine what you have, and this includes hard copy as well as digital assets and online sites.

--Include in estate planning. Create a codicil to your will or make sure there are some forms of instructions concerning your genealogy research.

--Backup your data. Backing up your genealogy data is a good habit for the living, and it will keep all your information in one place for your executor.

--Futureproof your technology. CD-ROM discs degrade over time. Negatives and movie-films can fade and fall apart. Transfer items to digital asap.

--Have that conversation with your family. Be very clear about where your genealogy research is located, why it is important, and what you want done with it.

--Contact organizations. Determine which libraries, societies and archives will accept all or part of your collection. Donate items you don't need now.

--Post items online. Consider starting a blog—even a private one—to preserve your family stories. Do the same with a family tree on Ancestry or on one of the popular genealogy sites.

--Important to do stuff now! Tell your own stories now. Write that genealogy book now. Interview family members now.

Resources

Articles and Books

5 Tips for Donating Your Genealogy

<https://www.familyhistoryfanatics.com/donating-your-genealogy>

Cleaning Mother's House

<https://rootdig.blogspot.com/2010/11/cleaning-mothers-house.html>

Donating Your Personal or Family Records to a Repository

<https://www2.archivists.org/publications/brochures/donating-familyrecs>

Money Saving Resources for Preserving Family Photos, Slides and Home Movies

<https://www.genealogybargains.com/moneysaving-scanning>

Organizations Accepting Items

Allen County Public Library

<https://www.genealogycenter.org/Donate.aspx>

FamilySearch

https://www.familysearch.org/en/wiki/FamilySearch_Library_Donations

Library of Congress

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/genealogy/gifts.html>

New England Historic Genealogical Society

<https://www.americanancestors.org/give/donate-materials>

Apps, Products and Websites

Artifacts

<https://artifacts.com/>

Digital Assets Codicille

<https://genealogybargains.com/digital-assets-codicil>

Forever

<https://forever.com>

Genealogy Future Proofing Action Plan

<https://genealogybargains.com/genfuture-proofplan>

Knotify.me

<https://knotify.me/>

Organize Your Family History

<https://organizeyourfamilyhistory.com>

The Organized Genealogist

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/organizedgenealogist.com/> (©2023, copyright Thomas Macentee. All rights reserved)

Maps & Gazetteers in Your Family History Research

In doing your research you will most likely need to have a good map and gazetteer. Chances are that you may not be very familiar even with the area where your grandparents were born or lived. You may think it's a small town or village but may not have any ideas beyond that.

Gazetteers

A gazetteer is a geographical dictionary or directory used in conjunction with maps for those of you beginning your family history. It will tell you the name of towns and counties and when they had boundary changes and when they may have had a name change. For example, Garson, Manitoba where my ancestors emigrated to in 1892 was originally incorporated as the Village of Lyall on January 1, 1915. Its official name was changed to Garson on April 9, 1927. So, my great grandfather was found on a voter's list in Lyall found in a local history book dated 1915 so knowing the original town or county name may help a lot.

Some of the most useful nationwide gazetteers are: Crosby, P.A Lovell's Gazetteer of British North America. You can also use provincial gazetteers such as The Province of Ontario Gazetteer and Territories & Gazetteer and Directory 1897 found on the following website www.archive.org, or check on the other websites below for other gazetteers and maps see www.familysearch.org. Then check out <https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca> for Manitoba Gazetteers—this is an annual directory: Manitoba geographical names—1974-1981.

Your First Map

There are many different categories, and some maps show more than one type of information:

- Roads (most common contemporary map)
- Political (showing boundaries)
- Topographical (showing mountains/elevations)
- There are also maps showing distribution of many things—languages, population, crops, temperatures, etc. Some maps show where different nationalities immigrated to, Scandinavians for e.g. went to Minnesota and some parts of Manitoba. There also are occupational maps showing where varying people of specific occupations settled.

An interesting map “The Calgary 1924” map—this map compares Calgary in 1924 with present day map. See Old Maps of Alberta see the following website: <https://www.oldmapsonline.org>. Discover the past of Alberta on historical maps.

There are a number of mapping programs around which claim to have all the towns and villages in North America and in other countries and every street by name. They will also help you plan a trip and provide driving directions. Online you can find the same service at MapQuest, Expedia or Google Maps. It doesn't hurt to check map websites online.

County Maps

County maps can be truly helpful for genealogy, any map must show the boundaries as they existed when the ancestor you are researching lived there. Boundaries have been changing constantly for hundreds of years.

Counties have changed a great deal. Your ancestors may have lived on the same farm for 200 years, but the records could be in five counties because of shifting borders. Counties generally started out large and then were divided, sometimes several times as the population grew.

The records are not divided when counties are split so you need to know which county to look in, for the certain time-period you need. If you are looking at a census index in a bound volume, there will probably be a map in the front showing the county boundaries for that certain census.

Historical Maps

Historical maps that show the area for the time you are researching are vital. “Historical” refers to the time period—not necessarily the age of the maps. They can be of many different types:

- a map might show the landowners in a town or who occupied which farms.
- a seafront village may have had a very different shape 200 years ago depending on whether the sea is

depositing land or taking away—or areas may have been drained or dredged.

--In areas where large amounts of land were distributed at once, such as New York or Spanish land grants in California, a map to these early grants gives an entirely different perspective.

--In cities, the location of early churches, in relation to where your ancestors lived, helps you decide which records to check, and they can even show name distributions.

Historical maps are not as easy to find as contemporary maps. Chances are that you may find them in book form or on websites where maps have been digitized. People who have copies of these old maps have been very good at making them available online. If you enter “maps” and “genealogy” into a search engine and you will get lots of hits. A good search engine is Dogpile because it searches many search engines at once. Some sites will have the actual maps whereas others will be places where you can buy maps. A helpful site for locating historical maps online is the Perry Castavieda Library Map Collection, University of Texas. Global Genealogy Supply has a large, number of historical maps of Canada for sale.

Always be on the lookout for historical maps of the areas you are searching. Check on Google! (Compiled for Susan Haga)

Historical Timelines

Timelines can assist us in knowing where our ancestors were living at a specific time and give us clues as to where to search for them. We can then check out what resources are available for that time-period, and places to search for our ancestors.

Comparing our ancestor’s personal timelines with historical timelines can bring important insights and add interest to our family’s history. Local national and world events may have had an impact on their lives encouraging them to move on or to remain in the same area.

Timelines Will Help

- Get new ideas for different records.
- In locating those records
- Find ancestors who are missing
- Gain significant insight into the lives of your ancestors by learning about the times and places in which they lived.

It is very important to learn about the history of the areas where our ancestors lived. Why did they move

where they did and when they did and what encouraged them to stay there? Keep a history reference binder on places that your ancestor lived.

What was in the area when they arrived such as churches, schools, cemeteries—and when did they cease to exist? Names of streets and towns changed as well as county borders moved. Check in Local History books a landmine of information to help with this. They can tell you when the town began and what it may have been named before, what it is known today.

Weather and Other Natural Disasters

Ancestors in agrarian pursuits may have been affected by drought that ravaged crops (Irish Potato famine), heavy rains, cold and extended winters. Did they live along the coastlines, could they have been hit by hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding and earthquakes? Devastating fire caused people to move when crops were burned and homes, forcing them to leave their places of residences. Check newspapers in areas where your ancestor may have lived previously for hints of their reasons for relocation. See Wikipedia: List of online newspaper archives at <https://en.wikipedia.org> for hundreds of newspaper links.

Large Scale Migrations

Other large-scale migrations may have been the result of opportunity rather than natural disaster. The availability of land, new modes or routes of transportation such as steamship, canals, railroads, new roads and faster advances with people moving to larger cities.

Other Events to Consider

We need to consider those living in areas where wars were fought; the War of 1812, Civil War, conflicts with other countries and prejudices against different nationalities. Some people of different nationalities (Polish) changed their names because they couldn’t find work because of the prejudice of the people in the areas where they lived and later may have changed their names back when the prejudice swayed to another culture such as German.

Epidemics

Epidemics had a huge impact on our forebears, particularly those in urban environments. Contagious diseases were easily passed onto others. Not only may our ancestors have lost family members from diseases, but some may also, have chosen to leave during an outbreak rather than risk infection such as the Spanish Flu Feb 1918 to April 1920.

Keep a copy of your timeline with you when you go and do research and make a habit of updating your timeline

whenever you learn new information about your family.

Comparative Timelines

Comparative Timelines can be used to compare two or more people's/families. For example, the objective may be to determine the migration of two separate families joined together by marriage. A timeline showing both families will help to focus the research. Unlike a basic timeline, a comparative timeline shows each year, whether there is an event or not. Constructing a timeline whether simple, detailed or comparative, can help illustrate gaps of time. The timeline can help determine where to look for records.

You can take comparative timelines a step further by adding additional family members or associates to the mix. You could follow, and ultimately compare, children, siblings, in-laws or even neighbors to see if other connections can be made. For example, my great grandparents had a male teacher board with them for years when they homesteaded in Stavely. He wrote a family history on his experience living with them.

A comparative timeline is also useful when trying to sort out identities. Sometimes we run across instances of name changes or aliases, and of course, we all have those female ancestors with unknown maiden names, or parents. A comparative timeline can help you track each of the individuals to see if any fit the pattern to your ancestor. Census records are a great way of accomplishing this check out agricultural censuses in Canada and see who the neighbors were who lived right next to your family.

Trace Your Ancestors

Track where your ancestors went and resided by consulting the census records, voting lists and local history books. People didn't always attend their preferred church but rather the nearest church to where they were living.

Try Different Resource Repositories

Search out every genealogical and educational institution; genealogical societies (abgenealogy.ca, family history centers (familysearch.org), university and public libraries in your area and specifically your city/town archives (Sir Alexander Galt Archives, Provincial Archives of Alberta (or other Provinces). Remember when searching Provincial or City Archives; they are somewhat different than other repositories their hours are more limited so prepare for this before you leave home.

Learn About Different Migration Patterns

Migration patterns allow you to expand your perspective so you will spot things of significance

that you might otherwise miss, and you will gather more proof from sources you research. One important observation is that men tend to marry younger women on the opposite side of the river from where they reside—recording marriages in counties you would not usually search. This is especially true where the river was the boundary line.

Successful Genealogy Research

Successful genealogy research largely depends on these three factors: correct name, correct time-period, and correct locality.

Correct Name

Search for all variations of the name even if the surname is spelt differently than expected, do not discard it as a possibility. Search all possible nicknames Molly, Polly and over 100 other variant nicknames for Mary.

Correct Time Period

If a family record lists John Brown's birthplace as Salt Lake City, Utah in the year 1760 there is something wrong with that time. The pioneers- entered the Salt Lake Valley July 24, 1847, and before that it was just a desert and a territory.

Correct Locality

The city/town/township belongs in the first field of the locality. This is followed by the township, then by the province, and then by the country. Make sure you are looking for the right town name and not the county name.

Historical and Personal Timeline Websites

A timeline is a representation of information that can be used in history. It usually represents a horizontal line with segments of time. Each segment can have its own sub-elements.

How to Create a Personal Life Timeline

<https://timepath.co>

Wikipedia Timelines

<https://en.wikipedia.org>

How to Make a Timeline in PowerPoint

<https://support.microsoft.com>

Lastly search Google for personal and historical timeline chart ideas and other family history within the same family research topics. Historical and personal timelines have helped me a lot in my research. (Compiled by Susan Haga)

Free Genealogy Websites

Access to Archival Databases (AAD) –

Dataset – Catalog

<https://catalog.data.gov.dataset>

Avotaynu

<https://www.avotaynu.com>

Britroyals

<https://britroyals.com>

British Royal Family History

Commonwealth War Graves Commission

<https://www.cwgc.org>

(WW2--Diorama German POW)

Community Heritage – OurOntario.ca

<https://ourdigitalworld.org.com>

Danish Family Search

<https://www.danishfamilysearch.com>

Dawes Rolls 1898-1914

<https://www.okhistory.org.research>

(Use the Dawes Rolls – known as the Final Rolls-
-to trace your ancestry to one of the five tribes)

Distant Cousins and how they are related

<https://leavesfamilyhistory.co.uk>

Families in British India Society

<https://www.fibis.org>

Federal Land Records – Bureau of Land Management

<https://www.blm.gov.services>

Freedmen’s Bureau Records

<https://www.archives.gov.research>

Genealogy Trails

<http://genealogytrails.com>

Hathitrust Digital Library

<https://www.hathitrust.org>

Japanese Canadians—Library and Archives Canada

<https://library.archives.canada.ca>

Libraries Tasmania

<https://libraries.tas.gov.au>

(Comprised of the State Library of Tasmania)

Library of Congress

<https://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov>

(Chronicling America provides access to information about historic newspapers.)

MooseRoots

<https://www.familytree.com>

(A new online site is a genealogical search engine)

My Danish Roots

<https://www.mydanishroots.dk>

National Archives

<https://aad.archives.gov>

National Library of New Zealand

<https://paperspast.natib.govt.nz>

New Zealand Government

<https://www.govt.nz.organisations>

(Births, Death, and Marriages-BDM)

Norway Archives and Libraries

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

Norwegian National Archives

<https://digitalarkivet.notway>

Passenger List Project

<https://nanaimofamilyhistory.ca>

Powvets

<http://powvets.com>

(Compiled by Susan Haga)

Genealogy Quotes

“We all carry, inside us, people who came before us.” --
Liam Callanan

Every book is a quotation; and every house is a quotation
out of all forests, and mines, and stone quarries; and every
man is a quotation from all his ancestors. --Ralph Waldo
Emerson

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

We need to haunt the house of history and listen anew to
the ancestor’s wisdom. --Maya Angelou

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

Genealogy is a hobby dedicated to creating a family tree,
family histories put some leaves on that tree by telling the
stories of the people who populated its branches.

Family History builds bridges between the generations
of our families. I must build the bridges between them.

Remember and honor family who have come and
gone before you, because they had a hand in shap-
ing who you are.