

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
Vol. 40 No. 2
May 2023
ISSN 0836-5319

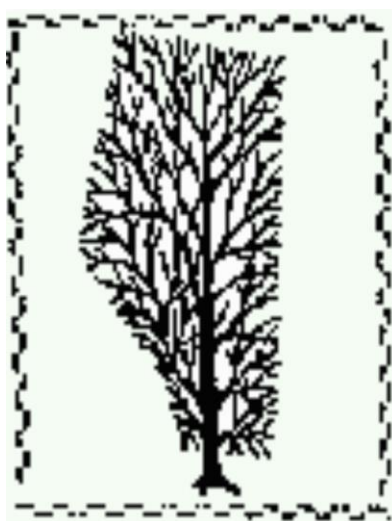


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Editor's Corner



To submit articles, genealogy humor and inquiries and etc. please feel free to contact us. Send your submissions to our library email at lethags@theboss.net or phone (403) 328-9564

Lethbridge A.G.S. Branch Hours

Open: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 1:30–4:30 p.m. Third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.) Visitors Welcome! Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request.

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

Address: 1:28; 909 – 3rd Ave. N. 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 Relatively Speaking digitally your membership is \$10.00 off

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President's Message

We held our Annual General Meeting on February. We did not elect a President. I did take on the responsibility of the president's duties. The executive did not change. Myself as Vice President, Julie as Secretary, and Kieran as Treasurer.

The former President Marilyn Astle and myself attended the Society's General Meeting in April.

We held our April Meeting, and reposted elections. Barry Simmonds was elected as President, Julie as Vice President, Kieran Biggins as Treasurer, and 7 family members. and Wendy Warren as Secretary.

Our longtime Treasurer and Membership Chairman, Pat Barry is very sick and has had to withdraw from his responsibilities, Kieran Biggins has volunteered to be the membership Chair.

We had 176 volunteer hours in January, 276 hours in Feb., 355 in March and 341 in April and 394 hours in May. For a total of 1442 hours to date this year.

We have added a new member in April, we have 43 members, 5 Life members. These numbers change every month so my reported numbers could be wrong.

We continue to hold our Legacy Group meetings on Mondays. The last one will be June 19th, resuming again in September. The executive meets once a month to set the agenda and approve other requirements. We are adjourning for the summer, and we still can be reached by email etc.

Our Branch members are very busy looking for new premises for our library. Some of our members are approaching the City of Lethbridge in hopes of finding accommodation in a Provincial Historic Building. The Galt Museum emailed us last week and they are looking for a person to present their research or history of Ukrainians settling in Alberta. Their theme for October is about the Ukraine. If you are interested in doing a presentation talk about the Ukraine. Please contact the Galt Museum.

We just received over 100 books from the Fort McMurray Branch as they are dissolving their society and have stopped operating. A big thank-you is in order for passing on their treasured books.

I am wishing everyone of our members to have a safe and enjoyable summer.

Up coming events are:

Picnic in the Park on June 15th

September 21st regular meeting via in person and on Zoom.

BOD Directors meeting for AGS in Edmonton (September 22nd).

50th Anniversary Celebration Conference to be held Saturday, September 23rd,

Annual International Dinner to be held Oct. 21st

Prepared By:

Barry Simmonds,
AGS Lethbridge President

Monthly Meetings

On Thursday, March 16th at 7:00 p.m. Joyce Schortinghuis gave a presentation on Familysearch.org and My Heritage. She has been the Taber Family History Director for the past nine years where she regularly taught classes on family history research. Joyce has a passion to preserve family keepsakes, heirlooms, mementos and stories. She also uses, and teaches others how to use, several of the major genealogy sites.

Branch members are able to use My Heritage through the AGS website (<https://www.abgenealogy.ca/>)

Kevin MacLean gave a presentation to us on Thursday, April 20th on How to Research Your Home in Lethbridge. He has been with the Galt Museum and Archives for the past 29 years and is responsible for the management of its Cultural History Collection. This includes its registration, research and preservation as well as providing access to both its physical and intangible heritage. Kevin has a B.A. in History from the University of Lethbridge.

Beginning in 2015, he applied his professional research methodology to his interest in the built landscape--specifically to his neighborhood's heritage homes and properties. He used the results of his research to inform his annual Jane's Walk tours, which he led between 2015 and 2019. His tours resulted in the publishing of two comic books on built heritage within his Victoria Park neighborhood.

Brian Dobing, one of our AGS members gave us a presentation on "Storing Your Digital Information" at 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 18th at our Genealogy Resource Centre. Brian was an Information Systems Professor at the University of Lethbridge. Brian has been an AGS member since 2018. He was inspired (by then deceased) father's efforts at putting together his family tree. It was based on recollections of his father's stories and letters from known relatives, including references to a mysterious chest possessed by cousin Alice in Newcastle. She claimed it contained disturbing information that was not to be opened by anyone until she died. However, starting with Ancestry.com at the Public Library in 2014, Brian has gone on to find stories of drunkenness, murder (victim, not perpetrator!), suicide, family abandonment, imprisonment (theft and domestic violence), and exaggerated (if not wholly invented) military service.

Brian received his PH.D. in Information Systems, University of Minnesota, 1992 and taught courses

in database design and programming until retiring in 2014. He is thus interested in the problems of how to organize digital data collected in the process of putting together a family tree!

On Thursday, June 15th Lethbridge AGS picnic had been planned in the outdoors, due to inclement weather it was moved to the meeting room at 2207 8th Avenue South (street parking). It was held at 4:00 p.m.

Lethbridge Family History Centre

The Family History Centre is closed for the summer. It will reopen in September with similar hours Tues & Wed 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The Gwilliam Family from Shropshire to Grassy Lake

My paternal grandmother Catherine Hall was born Catherine Gwilliam at Lower House, Chetton, near Bridgnorth in Shropshire, on 28 May, 1872. She married Ernest Albert Hall at Ogle Hay, Staffordshire, on 12 August 1896. Like all my four grandparents she died before I was born so I never heard any family stories from her. My father never spoke about anything much so no information came down to me through him either. After he died, I became interested in his life, and the lives of his parents, but Catherine's parents and siblings became no more than a list of names in a family tree as I turned my attention to what I assumed to be the more interesting maternal line in my family, beginning with the Catholic priest who eloped with a nun and ended his days as a member of the first Cape Parliament.

One of the Gwilliam names that had escaped me thus far was Walter and it was not until recent weeks that I stumbled over him and his fascinating life in Canada. In this I learned an important lesson in family history research: sideline a branch of your family history at your peril, the road not taken may contain unimagined riches. The story of Catherine's brothers who emigrated to Canada proves the point. I may even have living relatives in Canada. Travel plans at the ready!

Thomas Gwilliam, who I had known about but only as a name on a family tree, was born on 27 February 1868, at Chetton. The family were tenant farmers, not farm owners, in a predominantly agricultural county. On 26 December 1892 Thomas married Mary Jane Whittingham in the Anglican church in Ogle Hay, Staffordshire. They were married there probably because he was working there and Mary Jane a local girl he courted.

Why, I wondered, had he moved from Shropshire to Staffordshire? The answer almost certainly lay in the relative employment opportunities in the two counties.

During the late nineteenth Century a depression in British agriculture, sometimes referred to as the Great Depression, brought hardship to farming communities throughout the country from about 1873 to 1896. It was mainly caused by a dramatic fall in grain prices following the opening of the American prairies to cultivation in the 1870s at the same time as the cheap transportation that accompanied the expansion of international trade in steamships.

At the same time coal mining was flourishing so it is no surprise to find Thomas working in the Woodpecker Mines at Brownhills near Walsall before serving in the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa (1899-1902).

The chances are that when Thomas and Mary Jane heard tales of a good life for farming folk in Canada, they like many others, found the prospect attractive. They arrived at Montreal on 6 May 1905 aboard the *Ottawa*. Walter, a brother of Thomas, arrived shortly afterwards on 17 May aboard the *Kensington*. Thomas and Mary Jane took up a homestead at Grassy Lake, with the June 1906 Canadian Census showing them as farmers living at Bow Island P. O. with Walter one of four boarders in the household.

An article in 'Faded Trails, Grassy Lake, Purple Springs' has a grainy wedding photograph of Mr and Mrs Thomas Gwilliam on their wedding day in England and tells how at Grassy Lake Thomas had an additional string to his bow, not only working the farm in season but also the mines at Taber in the winters. It goes on with an account of their home and how they 'hired Isaya Lyons, a stone mason, to build their house of stone.

These stones were taken from the coulee. The coulee not far away was the north fork of the 40-mile. This house stands today, an old landmark of homestead day's'. I do not know when 'Faded Trails' was published but I imagine the house, or remnants of it, may still stand today. Or, more likely, my wishful thinking!

In that moment of time, it must have seemed to Thomas, Mary Jane and Walter that the move to Canada had assured them a successful future. But storm clouds were gathering. After the outbreak of World War 1 in 1914 Walter's thoughts and concerns seem to have focused on Europe and his Attestation Paper shows that on 12 November 1915, he enlisted at Lethbridge with the Canadian Overseas Expeditionary Force, swearing on oath

to 'be faithful and bear true Allegiance to His Majesty King George the Fifth'.

He arrived in England in March 1916 before embarking for France where he served as a Gunner in the 39th Battery. In October 1917 he was in hospital in Boulogne in France suffering from influenza before being transferred to Aubengue in November where, fortunately, he recovered from his illness. For many combatants in the War the influenza outbreak, 'Spanish 'flu' as it became known, posed a greater hazard than the enemy.

When the War ended in November 1918 Thomas no doubt looked forward to Walter's return from France just as Walter, no doubt relieved to have survived the War, had high hopes of his return to Thomas and Mary Jane and the farming life in Canada. But it was not to be. If Walter had survived influenza Thomas was less fortunate for after contracting an acute respiratory infection he died in the general hospital at Medicine Hat from influenza on 27 December 1918. The Lethbridge Herald of Dec 31, 1918 (page 17) has a short article headed 'Thos. Gwilliam Grassy Lake, A Victim Influenza', with a sub-heading 'Death of Citizen' reporting that 'He leaves to mourn his passing his wife, a brother with the forces overseas, and many friends,' adding only that 'The interment took place in the Grassy Lake cemetery'. Subsequent research shows him in an unmarked grave. I find that surprising but it may just have been that Mary Jane could not afford even a simple memorial. It must have been a devastating Christmas for Mary Jane, far from her family in England and with Walter still away in Europe after World War 1 ended in November 1918, for many families a time of rejoicing.

After the War Gunner Walter Gwilliam of the 39th Bty. C.F.A. was discharged at Medicine Hat on 31 March 1919. He returned to Grassy Lake and farming with Mary Jane.

Family history research is always capable of producing an odd surprise and one such for me was the discovery that Catherine Hall (Gwilliam), my grandmother, arrived in New York in transit on 30 May 1919 aboard the Cunard liner *Saxonia* ex London, with her final destination shown as Alberta, Ontario. She can surely only have been heading to Lethbridge to support Mary Jane, Thomas' widow, and no doubt her brother Walter as well. It was in any event a major journey and financial commitment given that her husband Ernest Albert Hall was at that time employed in a modest position as a gardener. Shortly afterwards she and Mary Jane returned to England. Was Mary

Jane considering a permanent return or just visiting family? In the event she returned to Grassy Lake and the farm with Walter.

After the death of Thomas and his return from the War, Walter seems to have remained close to Mary Jane and eventually became closer still for they married at Lethbridge on 16 March 1923, Walter now aged forty-three, and Mary Jane, shown on the marriage registration as 'Housekeeper', forty-nine. Unsurprisingly in view of her age the marriage seems not to have resulted in any children.

'Faded Trails' also has an image of 'Mr. and Mrs. Walter Gwilliam' standing on what may be the step to the front door of the house that Thomas and Mary Jane built all those years ago. The article also notes how 'many may recall Mary Jane singing "Cockles and Mussels" when friends got together.'

In about 1938, coincidentally the year I was born, Walter retired from farming and moved with Mary Jane to live in British Columbia. He died in Vancouver on 18 September 1953 aged seventy-three having lived there for fifteen of his forty-nine years in Canada since his arrival in 1908. Two stones mark his grave in the Mountain View Cemetery, the first, simple but clearly contemporary with his death, is marked 'Gunner W Gwilliam, C.F.A.' with a maple leaf and his date of death, while a second and more recent stone set on a stone base bears the same inscription but adds his regiment.

After Walter's death Mary Jane moved to Toronto, Ontario, probably to be close to such family as she had in Canada, and where she died three years after Walter in 1956. She is buried in the Park Lane Cemetery.

Her fine, well maintained headstone records, 'GWILLIAM, In Loving Memory of Mary Jane Gwilliam, 1874-1956, Dear Aunt of Bertram W. Gwilliam'. On the same face are recorded Bertram W. Gwilliam 1890-1966, Beloved Husband of Ellen L. Baker 1889-1977, as well as Walter T. Gwilliam 1920-1989, Beloved Husband of Thelma Skidmore 1919-2002. Below that is the sad entry relating to Darren G Williams 1967-1971 son of Jim and (second name hidden by leaves).

Bertram William Gwilliam as it happens was born at Brownhills, Staffordshire, on 26 May 1890. He arrived at Montreal on 4 May 1910. Clearly word had got around in the family that Canada was a good place to go.

Though I have yet to trace any living Gwilliam or Gwilliams relatives in Canada, descendants of my paternal forbears in Shropshire, England, the

names on this grave suggest my hopes may not be in vain. That is where the next stage in my research leads. Just in case I strike lucky I am keeping my provisional travel arrangements for Canada in place for now . . . But, as I myself am aged eighty-four, time may be of the essence!

Bernard Gwilliams Hall

I am indebted beyond measure to the Lethbridge Genealogical Society and in particular to Eleanor McMurchy for the wonderful research that revealed so much about my Gwilliams in Canada.
25 June 2023

1673 words

1500 plus 173

ARCHIVE

For with a photograph of 'Rock house of Thomas and Mary Jane Gwilliam' with these words 'They hired Isaya Lyons, a stone mason, to build their house (Rock House) of stone. These stones were taken from the coulee. The coulee not far away was the north fork of the 40-mile. I knew she had several siblings including a brother Thomas born []. I had not dug deeper and hence did not know that she also had a brother William born in in 2013 I wrote an article 'A Mystery House' for the Journal of the Shropshire Family History Society (Vol. 34 Part 4, December 2013) about my paternal grandmother Catherine Gwilliam(s) shown in a grainy black and white photograph standing outside a ruined house somewhere in England in about x. But where? I knew from her birth certificate that she had been born in Chetton in Shropshire and with the help of a researcher expert in the area, and my own knocking on doors, I was able to identify the house. It was still standing, no longer a ruin, and now lavishly modernized.

I knew about Catherine's farming family, her antecedents, parents and siblings including Thomas GWILLIAM born xxxx. My family history interests then turned to my mother's side of the family and Catherine lay untouched in my files for a decade.

It came as a great though welcome surprise to me when I recently discovered she had a Walter, who had escaped my previous searches, as well as a brother Thomas, born (xxxx), who was in my family tree but unknown to me had emigrated to Canada with his wife and settled farming in a place I had never heard of, Lethbridge, Alberta, early in the twentieth century.

With the prospect of living relations in Canada I as good as had my flights booked but first, I needed to know more about Thomas and his wife

and their life in Canada. Did they have children? What follows is the gist of the story that emerged.

Thomas Gwilliam was born on 27 February 1868 at Lower House, a Shropshire farmhouse, at Chetton.

[On 6 May 1905 Thomas and Mary arrived at Montreal aboard the Ottawa. The 1906 Canadian Census shows them living at Lethbridge, with Thomas now thirty-eight and Mary Jane thirty-one. It came as a surprise to me to see that living with them was a 'boarder', none other than Thomas' younger brother Walter, aged twenty-six, with three other boarders, John E. James aged forty and what I assume was his son, Thomas E James aged ten, plus Henry Arlaster

Walter was born on 8 January 1880, like his brother Thomas at Chetton near to Bridgnorth in [?]. No doubt since arriving in Canada in [?] he had been working the land with Thomas.

Family history research can spring surprises out of the blue in the family structure in the intervening years when I then became aware that Catherine Hall, born Gwilliam, my paternal grandmother and sister of Thomas and Walter, had been on the move travelling to Canada. It seems most likely that on receipt of news of the death of her brother Thomas she hastened to Canada to provide comfort to his widow Mary Jane. Had she received word of Thomas' illness or even his death? Neither possibility quite added up. On 17 May 1919 she departed from London aboard the Cunard liner 'S.S. Saxonia' bound for New York where Catherine landed on 30 May en-route to Alberta.

Catherine returns to England with Mary Jane, did MJ intend to return to her roots or just visiting. MJ returns to Canada. [emigrates to farm at Grassy Lake in Canada. Living with them is Walter Gwilliam aged x, a younger brother of Thomas who is also an immigrant/emigrant.] (Submitted by Bernard Gwilliam--a research recipient of Eleanor McMurchy).

Canadian Census Records Increase Over Time

The 1931 Canadian Census was taken June 1st 1931. It revealed that the population shift to the west was continuing, as was the movement to urban areas from rural.

The release of the 1931 Canadian census should enable millions of Canadians over the age of 60 to find census data for their parents for the first time. For those aged between 35 and 49, the census offers the first opportunity to access records for their grandparents.

The Canadian 1931 census was a detailed enumeration of Canadian population. The census population count was taken June 1, 1931. The total population count was 10,376,379 representing a 17.9% increase over the 1911 census population count of 8,800,249.

The 1931 Canadian census was the seventh comprehensible decennial census since Canadian Confederation on July 1, 1867. The previous census was the NW Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba in 1926 census and the following census was the NW Provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba in 1936 census. The census was finally released on June 1, 2023 92 years after the census data was collected.

The 1926 census is only available in digitized format. Microfilm reels are not available for consultation or for purchase. Library and Archives Canada holds an extensive collection of Canadian Census Records from 1640-present. And for Newfoundland from 1671-1945.

Two censuses took place between the wars: 1921 and 1931. The former was preferred because it was already digitized and you'd be able to access the documents online.

The Canadian census was taken at midnight on June 7, 1841 identified by series & piece #'s
31 March 1851 identified by series & piece #'s
8 April 1861 RG9
3 April 1871 RG10
4 April 1881 RG11
6 April 1891 RG12
31 March - April 1901--RG13
2 April 1911 RG14

The census records from 1841-1911 have been digitized and name indexed and are available online. You can search by name, browse by place, or locate an exact page if you have the full census reference.

Census returns only provide a snapshot on a particular date but enable an analysis to indicate which events may have taken place in the family structure in the intervening years be it possible deaths, marriages and remarriages, births and moveouts etc. Used in conjunction with other information they prove very informative. The usefulness becomes very apparent as you develop analytical skills and find your ancestors in as many returns as you can. What you see as you search between 1841-1901 are the transcribed enumeration books arranged geographically by district. In 1911 you see actual household returns. In theory everyone was recorded in the census even if your ancestors were prisoners, workhouse inmates, in hotels or hospitals or even fairground or circus workers living in a caravan.

Each census had a purpose, for example, the first census taken on 10th of March 1801 during the Napoleonic Wars intended to provide statistical information to manage the demand for food and to find out how many men were of military age.

The 1841 census records the names of everyone resident at the address on census night. Householders were asked to describe the occupations at people at their property which may have included servants and apprentices so you could find ancestors residing with an employer rather than them living with their own families.

The Canadian Census gradually became more detailed with every decade that passed. Marital status was included from 1851 onwards; together with the relationship with each person to the head of the household. Your ancestor may have been boarding at an address temporarily or may have had visitors staying over on census night.

Enquiries were also made asking if people were “blind, deaf, and dumb” and from 1871 whether anyone was deemed to be a “lunatic, imbecile, or an idiot.” Some census questions were about employment status in later census returns.

The 1911 Census is the most detailed and is the census that most people start out with systematically working thru the earlier returns. The 1911 Census is known as the (“fertility census”) as searching thru it you will discover how long your ancestors had been married, how many children they had, and whether any had died. This can be used alongside the marriage, birth and death certificates to help paint a picture of our ancestor’s lives.

The 1911 Census is also unique as we see the original forms completed in the householder’s Churthe person who completed the form (usually the head of the household.) Compiled by Susan Haga

Genealogist Certificate Course Online

In this part-time online Professional Genealogist Certificate Course, you will learn how to become a genealogist including important principles and practical step by step techniques for getting started in a career as a professional genealogist. (IAP Career College Guide to Become a Genealogist). This course is self directed which means you can study and complete assignments at times which are most convenient for you from the comfort of your own home. The Genealogist Certificate Course Online has been created to allow you to complete it without any teaching assistance. However, if you have questions or need assistance you can receive help from a faculty member, throughout the entire course.

This summer they had a special on for \$149.00 (regularly \$377.00) for 6 weeks or part-time or choose to complete this course from 4-12 weeks. (Submitted by Susan Haga)

7 Places to Find Free Genealogy Courses Online

A well-structured genealogy course or helpful webinar that covers modern research methods can open your eyes to a whole new world of and possibilities. Even the savviest family historians stand to learn something new from a knowledgeable teacher and quality materials.

Luckily, there are a selection of courses and webinars online for genealogists today--and quite a few are free to access.

YouTube--You might be surprised by how many brilliant online tutorials, courses and quick tips are on family history can be found on YouTube. Microfilm reels are not available for consultation or for purchase. A simple search, for “genealogy how-to” offers thousands of results and includes offerings from top experts, genealogy research sites and government repositories--including videos from the US National Archives. So, whether you are looking for help on conducting German genealogy or are in need of some family history basics, this is a great place to start.

FamilySearch Learning Center

There’s a reason why FamilySearch tops nearly every list because they offer the most extensive free genealogy site in the world. Their learning center is no less impressive. With a massive selection of quality courses on nearly every topic and location imaginable, you’re certain to find something of interest.

Brigham Young University Independent Study

BYU offers a variety of courses on family history topics that are completely free to the public and available online. These offerings include classes on introductory genealogy, writing your family history and several regional tutorials.

UK National Archives Family History

From army musters to medieval record research, the UK National Archives has many media offerings for genealogists--and they’re all free and easy to access right on their website.

Ancestry.com Learning Center

Most of us think of Ancestry as a paid resource, but they do offer a variety of helpful freebies, including a vast learning center. Some (but not all)

of the webinars and resources focus on finding records on Ancestry.com, but are still very helpful for general research.

RootsMooc-Intro to Genealogy and Family History Research: This open online course is offered by experts from the State Library of North Carolina and provides a complete introduction to genealogy research. This course is only partially available online at this time.

National Genealogical Society: If you're a member of the NGS you can take their courses at a reduced price. They used to offer a basic course for free to members, but this is no longer available. The annual fee is \$65 for an individual and includes many benefits.

Family History Daily now also offers online courses. Although not free, they conveniently cover dozens of research topics from beginner to advanced, in one easy-to-use-learning environment.

(Compiled by Susan Haga--some info taken from Family History Daily)

Discovering Our Ancestors in Canadian Church Records

Church records are excellent sources for accurate names, dates and places of births, marriages and deaths. Church records are vital records made by Church officials. They are often called parish registers or church books. Roman Catholic Church Records are sometimes called sacramental records. Besides providing names and dates church records may reveal relationships between people and depict family's status in the community.

Canada is a country of religious diversity, even though three-fourths of all Canadians claim affiliation with one of four churches: Roman Catholic, the Anglican Church of Canada, the United Church of Canada and the Presbyterian Church of Canada. While many of us believe that we know a great about church records they are fairly complex fairly complex based upon how each denomination was structured and how they kept their records. Every denomination performed certain rites and sacraments and kept records accordingly.

In a time when religion is viewed very differently, we may not have the understanding why the various denominations performed certain sacraments they way they did or even do today.

We need to understand what our ancestor's views toward their religion was. As in approaching any genealogy resource we need to understand all other records that are available other than birth, marriage, and death records such as membership records, communion rolls, minutes of committee boards and etc.

Often people may refer to themselves as Protestant or Catholic. Protestants may refer in one's mind to anything as non-Catholic or no professed religion at all. That makes it fairly difficult when searching for church records to try and figure out if your family was Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian or some other denomination. Some families may have a long tradition of association with one church particularly with Jewish or Roman Catholics but within the Protestant religion its quite a different thing as people often changed from one religion to another down through the generations of the family. The reasons may be based on theology or often are influenced by where their family may have lived.

Often people will say "Our family has always been Baptist or Presbyterian." Its true there are families who have always remained with a certain denomination but it is doubtful that every member of every family has continued to do so over the years. You may have to consult the records of numerous kinds of churches to find the information that you are seeking.

Places to Check First

Census Records: The first place to turn to is the census. The census always records the family's religion and they will give the actual group the family says it belongs to. You should look at all the censuses that you can get your hands on to see if the family changed its religion as they moved from one community to another from year to year. Sometimes when towns grew, they had more denominations to choose from so perhaps in the beginning they attended whatever church was available whether it was their preferred religion or not and later on started attending their preferred church.

Church Cemeteries: If a person is buried in a cemetery of a particular church, they may be a member there or have family who were members of that church so be careful before making incorrect assumptions.

Death Records: Death registrations--many provinces have death registrations which often include their family's religious affiliation. Be careful to note who the informant is and whether you should consider the information valid or not. It could be a close family member, or the family doctor, or even the funeral director.

--Death Announcements--these can be found in the newspapers (check birth/marriage announcements) or invitations were commonly used to communicate funeral information, in the early years (1880-1950) and can provide the same information about the church, the pastor or the cemetery.

--Obituaries--search out obituaries at the time of their death to see if a church is mentioned perhaps where the funeral is being held or who the pastor is who is conducting the funeral. Be careful that you do not assume membership in a church from these funeral notices which may be due to family affiliations.

Directories--consult a directory to discover what churches existed in a certain area at any given time. The county or town directories usually would list what denominations had churches in a particular town.

Local History Books--these are goldmines!. Along with containing family histories of local residents you can learn the name of their schools, newspapers and particularly what churches that were a part of their community. Often local histories contain the auxiliary organizations of the church such as the women's groups and will often contain pictures of the residents and activities that have been held etc.

Marriage Registrations--when ordering marriage registrations, it will list their religious denomination which made it easy to track down their membership information. Along with listing their religion it will list their address so if there is more than one church of the same denomination in town you will have a good idea which one, they would have belonged to. Check also for wedding announcements in the newspaper as it may mention where the wedding is being held.

Church Websites

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

Archives of Ontario--Church Records Collection 1749-1981
ao.minisisinc.com/scripts/mwimain.dll/

Contain original manuscripts, photocopies and microfilm copies of Ontario Church Records including church minutes, church registers, communion and session rolls, birth records, baptisms, marriage records, burial records, pew rental records, deeds, military records, church histories and newspaper clippings. Almost all the churches within the collection are in Ontario, however some are out of province.

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

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

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

Cangenealogy
www.cangenealogy.com/quebec.html
Includes links to the Drouin Collection 1621-1967 on ancestry.ca, births 1662-1898 on familysearch.org, Notarial Records 1800-1900 on FS, Catholic Parish Registers 1621-1900 FS and much more.

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

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

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

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

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

Newfoundland and Labrador Provincial

Archives <https://arc.anla.nf.ca>

Email archives@therooms.ca

Primary contact: Greg Walsh

Nova Scotia Archives

<https://archives.novascotia.ca/genealogy/church/registers>

Oldmaps Online

www.oldmapsonline.org/en/Alberta

Ontario, Canada, Catholic Church Records

(Drouin Collection) 1621-19 67

www.search.ancestry.ca/search/dbd.aspx?dbid=1109

Ontario Roman Catholic Church Records 1760-1923

www.anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/.../ontario-roman-catholic-church-records.html

Sources of Religious Records in Ontario

www.archives.gov.on.ca/en/microfilm/ontario_religious-records.aspx

Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives

www.presbyterianarchives.ca

Provincial Archives of Alberta

www.provincialarchives.alberta.ca

Check out the Archives of Alberta Northwest Conference found at the PAA

<https://albertanorthwestconference.ca/archives/>

The Conference Archives consists of approximately 400 linear metres of records dating from the 1830s to the present. These records are accessible thru the Sandra Thomson reading room of the PAA. There is no fee to access the holdings of the AB Northwest Conference Archives.

Tanguay Collection 1608-1890 www.anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2011/10/another-source-free-for-tnguy.html

(Cypren Tanguay-French Canadian Ancestors) in Quebec.

United Church of Canada

www.united-church.ca/leadership/church-administration/united-church-canada-archives

Located in Toronto it includes the General Council Archives and the Central Ontario Conference Archives. If you require a legal certificate then complete the certificate request found under the downloads for legal purposes.

Email archives@unitedchurch-ca or telephone 416 231 7680 ext 1101 Fee is \$30.00.

University of Alberta (Directories)

www.peel.library.ualberta.ca

Their Special Collections includes directories (which gives listings of churches in the area) and newspapers which provide birth, marriage and death records including obituaries.)

Wesleyan Methodist Church Baptismal Records 1828-1910

<https://search.ancestry.ca/search/db.aspx?dbid=9194>

Church Record Books

Acadian Church Records 1679-1757 translated and compiled by Winston de Ville (1964)

See www.amazon.com

Checklist of Parish Registers 1986 (4th ed, 1986) Patricia Birkitt's (Listing of church records dating from the 1850's.) See www.vpl.bibliocommons.com/

Terrence Punch's Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia (4th edition 1998)

See website www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/punch/3/ A genealogical handbook which includes 12 pages of church records held at the Nova Scotia Archives, and lists places, denomination and the years covered. (Submitted by Susan Haga, a handout from my Family History Class)

AGS Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

Held at the Edmonton Inn Conference Center Celebrating AGS 50th Anniversary

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Starts at 9:00 a.m, buffet lunch at 12:30 p.m.

Banquet 6 p.m.- 8:30 p.m. Keynote Speaker

Dave Obee, Award ceremony, Founding Members, Life Members, Past Presidents

Genealogy Humor

Remember that when a family member passes away, they take a library of memories with them. It's a genealogist duty to record them before that happens.

To get your family tree done the fastest, run for political office. Your opponents will have it completed way before the election, and then you can resign if you really didn't wish to run in the first place.