

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
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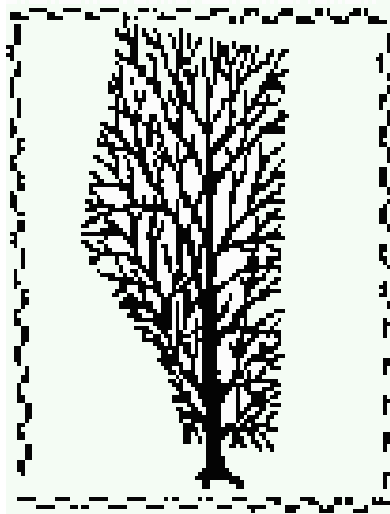


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Editor's Corner



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 June. Visitors Welcome! Our library will be closed July and August and Dec. but can be open on request. See our web site at:

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

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

Phone: (403) 328-9564

Membership Dues

Regular individual or family (Includes 1 Branch)--\$50.00, seniors (65+) individual or family (Includes 1 Branch)--\$45.00

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President's Message

I am writing this message on Remembrance Day, after having watched some of the day's ceremonies. In our home there are a few documents and pictures that we treasure and that remind us of my wife's family's connection to WWII. One such document is my father-in-law's RCAF Pilot's Flying Log Book showing his progress in attaining proficiency as a pilot. Another is his Commission as a Pilot Officer signed by the Governor General of Canada, the Earl of Athlone.

While his commission came late in the War and he was not required to serve overseas, we are nevertheless grateful and proud to know that he was prepared to do his part in the defence of freedom. We also have a picture of his cousin, Edward Barker, looking very handsome in his RCAF uniform. Edward was shot down and died flying over Czechoslovakia on May 14th, 1943. He is buried in the REICHSWALD FOREST WAR CEMETERY, Germany.

None of the living members of this family personally remembers the war years, most were born after the end of the war, others were too young to have personal memories of it, but by researching and recording our "family's Family History" we are making sure that their sacrifices are not forgotten and that our association with these painful events in the history of the world becomes more personal and, that in doing so, our gratitude is deeper.

Nestor Martinez

Genealogical Finds!

This is a new section I've decided to add to our newsletter. If any of you have had any genealogical finds that you would like to submit e-mail them to me at <http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net/Exec..htm> I will include them in the next newsletter. They can be short pieces of information or articles of greater length.

Monthly Meetings

On Thursday, October 20th at 7:00 p.m. Julie Pike, President of the Nobleford Museum came and gave a presentation on the Early Settlers of the Nobleford Area. It was very well attended. On November 17th our annual (potluck) International Dinner will be held at 6:00 p.m. at Win Evans and Mike Tomaszewski's home.

Local History Books, Henderson Directories, Other Genealogical Books

Attention members if you have any local history books, directories or other genealogical books you no longer need, please consider donating them to our Lethbridge Branch. If we already have the book we will offer it for sale to generate funds to purchase more books and other genealogical

materials for our Resource Centre. Conversely, if you are looking to purchase a local history book check our Used Book Collection. (Eleanor McMurchy)

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

Fall/Winter Hours: The Family History Center will be open Mon. 9:00-5:00 p.m., Tues.-Thurs. 9:00-9:00 p.m., closed Fri., and open Sat. 9:00-1:00 p.m.

When Is a Father-in-law not a Father-in-law? Answer: When he's a step-father.

This is not a Christmas cracker joke, but a fact that LostCousins member Susan brought to my attention recently following my article in the last newsletter about half-cousins. It seems that until the middle of the 19th century the suffix in-law was often used where we would nowadays use the prefix step. For example, in *Pickwick Papers* Sam Weller refers to his step-mother as "mother-in-law".

The ambiguity isn't just a problem when it comes to understanding census entries - it could also affect the interpretation of wills. Other ambiguous terms include uncle and aunt, niece and nephew, which may or may not refer to somebody who is a blood relative. (This is extracted from LostCousins newsletter Nov. 2011. (Submitted by Marion Fleming)

Wouldn't You Know It

As I was going to be in Nova Scotia for two years, I decided to concentrate my research on my Nova Scotia families. Both my paternal grandparents were born in Pictou County and their ancestors came to Nova Scotia between 1791 and 1831. Some of their surnames were Murray, Ross, Campbell, Davies, McQuarrie and Balfour.

My great great grandmother, Jane Ross, had a brother John. John was married to Grace Murray and they had a large family. John and Grace and family were on the 1871, 1881 and 1891 census at West Branch River John in Pictou County. Their second child, Isabella Ross, married Alexander S. Chisholm in 1873. In 1881 the Chisholms were in Pugwash, Cumberland with three children. I was unable to find them in 1891, but in 1901 Bella was back home in West Branch River John with her mother, brother and sister. Her youngest child, John R. Chisholm, born after the 1881 census, was on the 1901 census with Isabella's brother, John M. Ross. Interestingly Isabella listed her status as married. Nothing more was discovered about Alexander S. Chisholm or the other three children. However a delayed birth certificate for John R. Chisholm had as informant his sister, Grace Elizabeth Chisholm, of the City of Edmonton (1947). The 1916 census showed Isabella Chisholm (still married) and three of her children in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

The Chisholms weren't the only family to come to Alberta. My great great grandfather Angus Davies had a brother John. My grandfather told me that some of the Davies were in Londonderry, Colchester County and I was able to find John there on the 1871 and 1881 census. He had changed the spelling of his name to Davis. His wife was Elizabeth and they had seven children. One of his daughters was Etta M. Davis and she married James Gordon Jobb in 1901. Etta and Gordon were on the 1911 census at Acadia Mines, Colchester with children Audrey, Helen, Gordon and Thelma. There were no death records for the parents or marriage records for the children on

www.novascotiagenealogy.com

However there was a delayed birth certificate filed for Gordon Davies Jobb. The informant was James Gordon Jobb of Tofield, Alberta. The 1916 census listed the family in the town of Tofield. Over the years I had been to Tofield to visit my uncle and Bob's aunt. The last time I was there was in 2002 at Bob's aunt's funeral. We even were at the graveyard and could have looked for the Jobbs if we had only known.

Etta Davis Jobb had a brother, Edward Davis, who had two sons John Edward and George Barrett who both used the original surname of Davies. George Barratt Davies applied for a delayed birth certificate in 1936, using his brother John Edward Davies as informant. John Edward's address was Medicine Hat and George Barrett's address was c/o Lethbridge Iron Works, Lethbridge, Alberta. A company history of Lethbridge Iron Works found <http://www.lethbridgeironworks.com/HistoryPages/HistoryFrameSet.html> gives some information about the Davies family and how they became involved in Lethbridge Iron Works. Both John Edward and George Barrett Davies were involved in the company, but John stayed in Medicine Hat and George came to Lethbridge where his descendants are still involved with the company.

Now I need to get back to Alberta so I can look in the Lethbridge and Medicine Hat cemetery listings and newspapers and so I can make a trip to Tofield. Wouldn't you know it! (Submitted by Anne Baines)

Patronymic Paranoia

(The following article is a slightly revised version of a paper that Dafydd Hayes wrote some time ago and which appeared in *Hel Achau* in 1992.)

This article is based on a talk given at our monthly meeting in January 1992 at Mold about the mysteries of the old Welsh system of personal names. What I want to show you is how family names developed in Wales and how you can then work the process in reverse to get at your Welsh ancestors.

I want you to forget the idea that surnames are something fixed and constant. All family names had to start somewhere and, if you have Welsh ancestry, you will quite likely be able to find just when that surname was formed. You are most unlikely to be able to do that with an English family name.

In case you are not acquainted with the Patronymic system of naming, I would suggest that you try a simple written exercise. The only requirement is that you know your own name and that of your father and grandfather. You should start by writing down your own name (use only one name, the one you are usually known by). To the right of that, leaving a space write down your father's given name (again only one name). The men should now put 'ap' between the two names and women should put 'ferch', 'ap' meaning 'son of' and 'ferch' meaning daughter of in this context. There we have the basis of the Patronymic system. Everybody was known as the son or daughter of their father. As you can imagine there could be many people with the same name. So what's new in Wales? Again to the right of what you have written, leaving a space, you should write your grandfather's given name. This time both men and women fill the gap with 'ap'. Now you have three-generation patronymic. So who needs a surname? To continue the process you simply add further fathers' names inserting 'ap' between each name.

That is all there is to patronymics! Well perhaps there is a bit more. You had your own name and all you needed for identification was your father's name plus, possibly your grandfather's. There was no particular stigma attached to being illegitimate in Wales, at least not in medieval times, and so you would not be unduly concerned if your patronymic was not that of your half brothers and sisters. The legal system in Wales before the coming of the Normans needed something more than your short patronymic. As the family unit, the tribe if you like was responsible for the doings of every member of that family, it was important that you knew your ancestry—in extreme cases to nine generations. Generally five or seven were enough.

Can you rattle off seven generations? Five? In Mediaeval Wales to know your pedigree was of great importance, affecting everything from the ownership of land to the payment of fines.

Let us take a look at an early Welsh pedigree, not in its original form, even if it was ever written down at the time, which is most unlikely. You can forget about Domesday Book and 1066 and all that. These pedigrees take off from that time and go back, if not to the year dot, then something very close to it. This is where that first definition of paranoia comes in and we start suffering from delusions of grandeur. Anyone with an ounce of Celtic romanticism would like a pedigree going

back to the Welsh Princes and beyond but, alas, for most of us it is very difficult to prove, even if we know in our heart of hearts that we are descended from them!

This example is taken from an 8 volume masterpiece called Welsh Genealogies A.D. 300-1400 by P.C. Bartrum, who has made a life's work of collecting Welsh pedigrees from various sources, cross checking and indexing them. The second set, covering the period 1400-1500, is another 10 volumes. I have never met him but this man is my hero! Some of these later volumes have pedigrees extending into the mid-sixteenth century and it is just possible to connect through into the earliest parish registers. When reading the pedigree, notice particularly the sound of the names because, as you go back through the pedigree, many of them will be unfamiliar as personal names.

*Grufud ap Cynan ab Iago ab Idwal ap Meurig ab
Idwal Foel ab Anarawd ap Rhodri Maw rap
Merfyn Frych ap Gwriad ab Elidir ap Sandde ab
Alcwn ap Tegid ap Gwair ap Dwg ap Llywarch
Hen ab Elidir Lydanwyn*

Eighteen generations working back from Gruffudd ap Cynan who died in 1137 to Elidir Lydanwyn who would have been around in about the year 500 AD. You can take a piece out of any part of a pedigree as above and make a person's name so that Gruffudd ap Cynan ab Iago ab Idwal might be his formal name but the short patronymic for a man as famous as he was would be Gruffudd ap Cynan or just plain Gruff to his friends.

That has shown you one end of the story, back in the dim and distant past. What happened between then and now to leave us with the types of family names we have ended up with is what I want to show you next. Skipping 500 years or so of Welsh history we come to the first major upheaval which was to affect the customs of the Welsh people.

*GORONWY = GWERFLY ferch MADOG
TUDUR = MARGRED ferch THOMAS
MAREDUDD = MARGRED ferch DAFYDD
OWAIN (TUDOR) = CATHERINE (de Valois)
EDMUND (TUDOR) = MARGARET (d. JOHN
BEAUFORT)
HENRY (TUDOR)*

As you can see from this short pedigree of the house of Tudor, had the family adopted English ways and settled on a fixed family name at a different time, England might have had the Goronwy or Meredith dynasty in the sixteenth century.

The conquest of Wales by Edward in the thirteenth century had had little effect on Welsh customs but, ironically, the rot set in when a Welshman became King of England. The nobility started to drift to London and, even if they did not

actually remain there, they started to adopt the English ways. Not least among these was the adoption of a surname. Imagine the ridicule in the Royal Court if your name was just a recitation of your pedigree. How could you possibly be anyone if you did not have a family tag? The changes did not happen overnight and the families reacted to English influence in different ways. Some took the family seat as the name, e.g. Mostyn, here in north-east Wales. Others froze the patronymic and took the current second name as the Tudors had done. We are talking here about the upper echelons of society, and these families are well documented and are of limited interest to most of us mere mortals. But, of course, what the nobility do today the common folk do tomorrow, and gradually – very reluctantly in some areas – the patronymic system was dropped. It did not happen overnight and it fades away in a manner to cause the most confusion to family historians. Well, why should they make it easy? They didn't want to change their customs anyway! The usual question at this stage, and the one I cannot possibly answer, is when did the change take place in a particular area or in a certain family? All I can say is that the higher up the heap and nearer to English influence you were, the quicker you made yourself look less Welsh. On the other hand, if you had nothing to gain by change and were tucked away in the West, then there was no reason to take on foreign ways.

Even before the time of the Tudors, however, there had been a gradual change in the names that children were given. Most of the names seen in the old pedigrees were no longer used and names such as John, David, William and Edward were becoming the most popular, with profound effects later.

I now want to show how these changes resulted in the sort of surnames that are predominantly Welsh. Let us look first of all at the formation of surnames in the male line. Take the patronymic Edward ap Griffith ap Thomas as an example of a name you could well come across in a parish register or legal document as late as the eighteenth century. The use of 'ap' between the names in a patronymic was often dispensed with, so that our Edward ap Griffith ap Thomas could just as well be known as Edward ap Griffith Thomas, Edward Griffith ap Thomas or even Edward Griffith Thomas. This last form, which is quite common, has been the downfall of many an uninitiated genealogist. To us it looks just like a present day name that is two Christian names and a surname. You, the initiated, know that it is nothing of the sort and still means Edward son of Griffith son of Thomas.

The next stage was for the patronymics to get shorter so that our Edward ap Griffith ap Thomas would become Edward ap Griffith. No problem for

the genealogist there, but would you still be so sure that this was a patronymic if he dropped the 'ap' and became plain Edward Griffith? Do not forget that 'ap' means 'son of' so that, when it was dropped, there was still a strong urge to imply 'of' by putting the English possessive 's' on the end so that we could end up with our man calling himself Edward Griffiths. Now I defy you to recognise that as a patronymic!

Did I hear a sigh of relief? At last Griffiths is something that is recognizable as a surname. No such luck I am afraid. Our Edward's son might just as easily call himself Edwards as Griffiths! Are you perhaps beginning to see the reason for the second definition of paranoia being so apt? I think, though, that you should make the tendency to suspect and mistrust normal rather abnormal. Sooner or later one of these names would settle as a surname, with or without the final 's', giving most of the common surnames such as Roberts, Williams, Griffiths etc. Thomas already had the 's' in place. Jones is a little harder to understand but, if you consider that John would be spoken as Sion, the 'j' sound did not exist in Welsh at the time, then the development to Shone, Shones and Jones is not too difficult to see. Davies probably came by a similar route with the colloquial form Dafydd giving rise to Davis and Davies.

Strictly speaking 'ap' was used before a consonant. Before a vowel it should be 'ab' but, as the two sounds are quite similar, the rule was not strictly adhered to. The Welsh vowels are as the English but with 'w' and 'y' in addition. This short grammar lesson is by way of introduction to another method of forming a surname. For this example we can look at the patronymic John ab Evan. If we say this quickly it begins to sound like John Bevan and hey presto, another surname. There are many, many examples of this type of formation so that any surname beginning with a 'b' or 'p' is suspect, especially if by dropping the initial letter you end up with something that sounds like a Christian name.

Examples of b and p names are legion but some of the most common are Badam, Bithel, Boliver, Bowen, Prandle, Prees, Price, Prichard and Probert. 'Ap' before H is a special case so that ap Harry becomes Parry, ap Henry becomes Penry and ap Hugh becomes Pugh, and so on.

You may have noticed from the examples given that the same patronymic can give rise to different surnames quite apart from minor spelling variations. Thus Henry can end up as the surname Henry, Penry, Harry, Parry, Harris, Harries and so on. Hugh can become Pugh or Hughes. Richard becomes Richards or Prichard and many more.

For the last main group of names we go back to a patronymic such as Griffith ap Griffith. In order to distinguish between the two Griffiths the

son might well be called Griffith Fychan ap Griffith, that is Griffith junior, son of Griffith. If this situation coincided with the freezing of the patronymic the children of Griffith Fychan could well take the surname Fychan, anglicized to Vaughan.

In a similar way, some attribute of the person could be used to differentiate between two people with similar patronymics. The most frequently used were the colors of llwyd (grey), gwyn (white) and coch (red) and it does not take much imagination to see how these developed into surnames Lloyd, Gwynne or Wynne and Gough. Llwyd and gwyn could also be used in the sense of holy or blessed when attached to a name.

So now you see how we all end up being called Jones, Williams or Davies in Wales simply because John, William and David were the most popular Christian names around during the three or four hundred years when family names were stabilized. The older Welsh names do not feature much as surnames in Wales because they had gone out of fashion long before surnames developed in the population generally. These names are to be found as surnames in England rather than Wales, or at least are most common in the border areas. Again the reason is that the older names were still in use when these surnames became stabilized and that very much earlier than in Wales generally. Examples of these are Bunner (ab Ynyr), Nevitt (Ednyfed), Bennion (ab Einion), Cadwaladr, Gittins (from Guto a diminutive form of Griffith), Kenrick (Cynwrig) and Shone (Sion – John).

The ladies, who have been more or less ignored up to now, have come into their own. This illustrates one more aspect of the patronymic system that may not have occurred to you. What is the wife to be called after marriage? Yes, she must keep her maiden name. She does not cease to be the daughter of her father by getting married and no other arrangement of names make sense. Therefore, when you come across a baptismal entry such as John son of William Jones and Mary Edwards it does not necessarily mean that John was illegitimate. It will generally say so if he was and also it will usually say that Mary Edwards was the wife of William Jones.

It is time now to start working the other way round because that is what you will be doing as you delve into your Welsh ancestry. You will be approaching the problem from the base of a fixed surname. For the first hundred years or so there will be no difference but, from the middle of the nineteenth century, you will have to tread carefully. Yes, you may have great difficulty even getting to the mid nineteenth century because of the common surnames but, with a combination of Civil Registration and Censuses and a good smattering of non-conformist records, you should make it back to

1841. Earlier than that, especially in West Wales you must start becoming paranoid in the second sense of the word. Doubt anything that may be a patronymic in disguise, which is any surname that looks as though it may have been a Christian name at some time. If it is obviously an English word, then you can forget this problem and face the other problem of finding where it came from to Wales!

Ignore patronymics in your Welsh ancestry at your peril. I have used the computer to search through the post 1837 marriages in the Hayes Marriage Index to see who was using patronymics when they got married. Only the grooms have been studied to see where the father had what appeared to be a different surname from the groom. It is not so easy with the brides because their surnames would be different from their fathers' if they were widows, which would complicate the issue. This method does not include marriages where the father's name was of the form John Jones or William Williams etc., of which there are many, as it is impossible in that case to tell whether the son was using a patronymic or not, so that the numbers quoted are an underestimate. The Marriage Index covers the counties of North Wales only.

As you might expect from what I have already said, in the eastern counties, Flintshire, Denbighshire and Montgomeryshire, the number of patronymic marriages after 1837 is quite small, less than 1% between 1837 and 1900, although they are to be found as late as the 1880s even in those counties. However, when we look at the western counties that now make up Gwynedd and Anglesey, the story is very different. For all marriages between 1837 and 1900, Anglesey had 7% Merioneth 8.5% and Caernarfonshire 13% of grooms using patronymics. If we look at the period up to 1850, the proportion is about double, so that in Caernarfonshire about one in four grooms used the patronymic. I suspect, when we take account of the marriages which I could not be sure about and those where the bride was using a patronymic, somewhere between one third and one half of all marriages in that period would have had one or both partners using patronymics. Do not forget, I am talking about marriages in the time of the great-grandparents of most of us.

For anyone coming new into family history, it may take awhile to accept that the spelling of your surname may not be more than a couple of generations old. Now I am telling you that, in Wales, the surname itself may not be more than a couple of generations older than that. Do not let that put you off because, once you get back to the patronymics, it opens up a whole new vista.

Conquering Patronymic Paranoia

1. In early censuses look for siblings using different surnames. Some may have taken

- the father's first name as a patronymic.
2. Similarly look for cases where all the children apparently have a surname other than their father's. If it is a patronymic the surname should correspond with his first name.
 3. In the parish registers look for the occurrence of 'ab', 'ap', 'ach', 'uch', 'vch' and 'vz' the last four being common forms of 'ferch'. This means you are in patronymic country but your family may not necessarily be using patronymics at that time.
 4. Look for instances of non-gentry having apparently more than one Christian name.
 5. Look for examples of the wife retaining her maiden name.
 6. Be on the lookout for aliases.
 7. When in patronymic company in the register then, when looking for a baptism, search for the name as a surname and as a patronymic. This may make elimination more difficult but can pay dividends if it identifies the change of system.
 8. When looking for a female burial, check maiden as well as husband's name.
 9. Generally, when working back, once on patronymics then on patronymics you shall stay. The main exception to this is if there is an English ancestor lurking further back in which case you may well be back on a fixed surname. These are quite easily spotted!

Further Reading

P.C. Bartrum Welsh Genealogies A.D. 300-1400 - 8 volumes. University of Wales Press 1974
 P.C. Bartrum Welsh Genealogies A.D. 1400-1500 10 vols. University of Wales Press 1983
 Lewys Dwnn Heraldic visitations of Wales and part of the Marches Llandovery 1846
 J.E. Griffith Pedigrees of Anglesey and Caernarvonshire Families Horncastle 1914
 Francis Jones An Approach to Welsh Genealogy Trans Hon Soc Cymmrodorion 1948
 T.J. Morgan & Prys Morgan Welsh Surnames University of Wales Press 1985 (Written by Dafydd Hayes—Appeared in Hel Achau - Jan. 2005—Submitted by Mary Roberts)

English Research Maps

Help for English Research

All of you doing English research or trying to help others need to be aware of the help available from FamilySearch. If you go to maps.familysearch.org you find an interactive map where you can type in the name of the place. Notice the tab called "layers" in the top

left-hand corner. A click shows you the various civil and religious jurisdictions. You can zoom in and out, ask it to show the parishes all around your parish, ask it to make a circle around parishes or towns within, say a ten mile radius or fifteen mile radius—things I used to spend days figuring out when I would search a new place. It also has a built in gazetteer that will show you information about the town. Awesome! Just play with all the tabs in various views. You will be amazed. (Taken from the Logan, Utah Family History Center Newsletter—Doris Bateman).

Military Websites

- **AutomatedGenealogy.com**
www.automatedgenealogy.com This has links to census information and wartime databases.
- **Canadian Virtual War Memorial**
www.veterans.gc.ca An extensive database of the location of military graves, and an option to order a copy of a specific soldier's entry in the Book of Remembrance
- **Commonwealth War Graves Commission**
www.cwgc.org This has personal and service details and places of commemoration for the 1.7 million members of the Commonwealth forces who died in World War I or World War II.
- **Canadian Merchant Navy War Dead Registry**
genealogy.about.com/Canada/Canadian_Military_Genealogy_Wars_Military_Records_in_Canada
 This is an index of merchant sailors and their ships.
- **Canadian Post War Military and Dependant Graves**
www.admieapp.forces.gc.ca/index-eng.asp
 Burial locations of service members and their dependants who died outside of Canada and the USA but were not returned to Canada.
- **Cyndi's List** www.cyndislist.com
 Cyndi's List has an extensive list of military sites, databases and help forums.
- **FamilySearch.org** www.familysearch.org
 It has numerous databases. To locate the military information, follow the "Learn" link at the top of the page, click on "research courses," and choose "Military" from the left-hand column.
- **FindAGrave.com** www.findagrave.com
 Not limited to the military, it can help locate the grave sites of specific people and has photos of cemeteries and graves.
- **GenealogyLinks.net** www.genealogylinks.net
 A collection of links to smaller Canadian military archive sites.
- **Genealogyworld.net** www.genealogyworld.net
 It has information and lists of Boer War Prisoners. See the home page for 'Anglo-Boer War' web site.
- **Gen Roots Blog**
www.genrootsblog.blogspot.com is based in the US but includes European and Canadian resources.

- **Library and Archives Canada**

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/index-e.html

It has a large and growing collection of wartime records. For example, its index of Canadians involved in the First World War often includes a soldier's signature, next of kin, and a physical description and in some cases a photo.

- **Mary's Genealogy Treasures**

www.telus.net/public/mtoll/ On her home page click on military in the list of resources and you will be taken to a list of several links for Canada, US, and the UK.

- **Military-Genealogy**

www.military-genealogy.com This site includes a list of 10 web sites for WWI, WWII, and Pre WWI War records.

- **Odessa3.org** www.odessa3.org Odessa is a genealogical library drawing on sources of information about people of German and Russian descent.

Genealogical Notes of Interest

ScotlandsPeople www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/
Census Street Lists

The Census Street Lists for the main towns and cities have now been added to the site for all census years. These free-to-view books are an excellent research tool and can be used to locate streets and find which enumeration books cover a particular area. In most instances the registration district is also provided. This is an excellent resource for finding who lived at a particular address without searching on a name.

Saskatchewan Virtual War Memorial

<http://svwm.ca/>

You can search by surname or by advanced search including service number, rank, conflict and etc. to find a Saskatchewan soldier that died in active duty during the war.

1940 U.S. Census Video Available Online

The 1940 census will become available to the public on April 2, 2012. The date was chosen to comply with the requirement to protect privacy for 72 years. If you want to watch a vintage video, you can learn more about the contents of the 1940 census in a 10-minute movie created by the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. The movie was created in 1939 or 1940 and is typical newsreels of that time.

The movie focuses on the role of the enumerators (census takers) but explains who was counted and also provides many details about the 1940 census. You can watch the video on YouTube at <http://youtu.be/OwZk6rASC8k>. (Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter--November 2011)

Important Changes Made to the United States Social Security Death Index

Effective November 1, 2011, the Social Security Administration (SSA) changed its policy on what records it will use as source material for adding new entries in the Public Death Master File (DMF) which, in turn, is used to create the Social Security Death Index (SSDI).

The Agency decided that it can no longer use state death records to add new entries to the DMF. Furthermore, the SSA will remove approximately 4.2 million records currently on the SSDI because those entries were made based on information from state death records.

You can read more about the new changes in Steve Danko's blog at

<http://stephendanko.com/blog/15164> as well as from a Fact Sheet from the Social Security Administration's website at <http://ssa-custhelp.ssa.gov/ci/fattach/get/601/> (Eastman's Genealogy Newsletter --November/2011)

Dealing With Pesky Family Legends

At holiday times your family gathers around the table to share good food and comradely. Another thing that many families share is stories about their ancestors. Inevitably, these get passed down from generation to generation, often around the holiday dinner table. Some even become legends. But the same legends that make holiday gatherings special can also be the nemesis of many a family genealogist. Dealing with them can often be a tricky and sensitive issue.

Family legends start just like the game "Whispering down the lane" in which the first person tells a tale to the second who passes it onto the third and so on. By the time the tale reaches the end of the line of players, it's usually a twisted version of the original story. And so it is with family legends. Instead of a line of players, the legend travels from one person to another through generations until the most current generation believes it to be true. Unfortunately, anyone who might know the truth about the legend has probably been long gone. But the facts remain. And facts are what you as a family genealogists deal with in uncovering the truths about your ancestors.

Almost all of us have family legends. While legends often have a basis in fact, they're frequently distorted when being passed from one generation to the next. Relatives, especially older ones, may insist on the absolute accuracy of a story or the family lineage and will feel insulted if you suggest researching its authenticity. While your family's genealogy contains mostly relationships between ancestors, a family history, should you choose to write one, will contain lots of background about your family gleaned from stories that have been passed down.

People naturally regard published information as accurate. Whether it's a family history or a small memorial pamphlet printed to commemorate the death of a patriarch or matriarch, these often contain genealogical information and family stories spanning multiple generations.

Prepared without much research and usually in a hurry by well-meaning relatives, these little volumes usually include incorrect names and dates, plus family stories known to the author at the time. But as a basis for research, these memorial pamphlets can be invaluable to you, the family genealogist or historian.

Many families cherish stories about big events, such as their ancestors' immigration to America. Other stories may center around the supposed relationship to a famous person based on the family name. Whatever the story, it needs to be proven.

So how do you handle family legends that you've discovered to be false? First, don't take family legends lightly or even ignore them. When you write your family history, include the family stories as they've been told to you, perhaps noting them as family legends. Using the word "legends" implies that the stories may be exaggerated. Tell how the stories originated, then show what you've discovered through your research. Try to separate truth from fiction, and don't hesitate to prove that stories are false, if they are. Even if you have not been able to prove or disprove a particular story, acknowledge it as a legend and say you've yet to substantiate it. The family stories you gather will make your family history more interesting, so treat them for what they are and nothing more.

Generally, family legends tell about the traditions, customs, and values of your family from one generation to another. They're usually based on facts and often provide clues to the ethnic origin of your family. Through them, you may uncover information leading to your family's founder's immigration, occupation, marriage, number of children, and cause of death. Family legends are also embedded with emotion, as your ancestors struggle against overwhelming odds. This brings to the surface such inherited characteristics as intellectual ability or stubbornness, perseverance or tenacity, or artistic or musical talent. But more often than not, family legends enhance the status of a family by creating larger-than-life heroes.

The achievements of your ancestors can add interest to what might otherwise be a dull family history. While a legend can cast an aura upon the character of a particular ancestor, the manner in which it's told reveals almost as much about the character of the storyteller. However, a legend can become detrimental if it's substituted for reality, making an ancestor seem more important than he or she really is.

The idea as to whether a family legend is true or not, can add a bit of controversy to your family history, leaving the question open to speculation and individual interpretation. Finally, you can ignore the legend altogether and simply relate the facts gathered through your research.

However you choose to treat your family legends, look at them with the eye of an investigative reporter. Legends can lead you down the wrong path, so be careful. Accept no family legends on face value and don't allow them to blind you to possibilities that contradict your family's stories. The real stories are far more interesting than those pesky old legends, anyway. (Bob Brooke—Genealogy Today—May 2011)

Long Distance Research—Genlighten

<http://www.genlighten.com>

One of the challenges when doing genealogy research is that often we don't live, and won't be traveling, where original documents are held. When this happens, how do we find someone who might be able to help us?

Genlighten connects genealogists to local researchers who can retrieve information from source documents. They also allow experienced genealogists a quick and simple way to offer lookup services online and earn extra income.

All too often, you need a vital record, obituary or other basic document, but you need the assistance of someone who lives locally. Though many documents have been digitized and are available on the web, via free or paid subscriptions, much more is only available at a local courthouse, archives, vital records office, local repository, etc.

I learned of Genlighten because, previously, when I needed specific documents from Cook County, I used the services of Cynthia of Chicago genealogy one of the cofounders of Genlighten, along with her husband Dean Richardson). I did several projects involving individuals living in Chicago and the great Cook County area and time and again I used her services to obtain documents.

These are no-frills basic documents, such as an index entry, vital record, directory entry, and voter registration or headstone photos, versus general research. This service is geared toward the genealogist who knows exactly what they are seeking, and yet can't do it themselves.

The service is very easy to use. The providers all set their own rates. To find a lookup provider, click on "Lookups" in the menu, choose country, state and, if needed, choose county and record type. This will bring up a list of the available lookup services and associated

providers. When you find an entry of interest, you can click on the provider's name to learn more about them, or click on "get details" to learn more about what exactly is encompassed by the service. This will also give you the option to create your particular request and then add it to your shopping cart. Once you have put all that you need in your cart, you are then guided through the payment process. Eventually, the document or result will be uploaded to you.

To learn a bit more about the service, check out the great slide show on Cynthia's site, <http://chicagogenealogy.blogspot.com/2009/11/introducing-genlightencom.html>.

When you need locale-specific human-powered research, which relies on the skills and experience of local researchers who know their community's records first hand, check out Genlighten. If all the providers are as professional as Cynthia, you'll be happy you obtained your next offline documents using this service. (Diane L. Richard, Internet genealogy—June/July 2010)

"Read All About It!" Newspapers Online

Deeds, wills, estate inventories and military records give the bare outlines of the lives of our ancestors, but newspapers offer a much richer picture of the worlds they lived in and everyday life. While microfilmed newspapers are a valuable treasure, searching them is mind numbing and eye-blurring ordeal. And, you have to travel to a library that has the reels you need.

Thank goodness for the Internet, because now many vintage newspapers are available online, and they're searchable by word. Although not yet completely foolproof (a search for one of my ancestors named Hennessa turned up Kennesaw Mountain), the text scanning technology of today is remarkable, bringing you search results in seconds that could previously have taken months of combing through microfilm reel.

Early Newspapers

England's first newspapers were printed in the 1600s. They were heavily restricted by the Crown, lest journalists publish news or opinions critical of the government. The first newspaper published in the US was called Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick. Started without permission from the royal governor, it ran in Boston, Massachusetts for exactly one issue before being shut down in 1690. The next newspaper in the colonies, The Boston News-Letter, began in 1704. By 1775, 37 newspapers were published in the Thirteen Colonies, including three in Pennsylvania, printed in German. Many were called the Gazette, lending them the prestige

of the London Gazette, the official newspaper of the British government, Historian Lawrence C. Wroth counted 1,934 different newspapers that were published in the US between the earliest colonial papers and 1820.

Early American newspapers were, generally speaking, weekly periodicals, printed front and back on a single sheet folded in half to make four pages. Most of the space was filled with paid advertisements and official government announcements. So much of the rest was political diatribe or amateur literary efforts, that there was little room for local news, which is, of course, what interests the genealogist and local historian of today. Most news was copied from newspapers from England, or other colonies, often after weeks or months in transit. Other out-of-town news came from letters written to the editor, or excerpts from personal letters sent to local merchants or others who loaned them to the editor for copying. The lack of local news will frustrate the modern genealogist and historian. Perhaps many a small-town editor figured that if something happened in town, everyone would already know about it.

Pictures could be printed only by laborious woodcut or metal engraving techniques. Illustrations were therefore rare, other than very small decorative flourishes or stock advertising subjects such as ships, houses, and horses.

Average circulation is difficult to determine, but most 18th- and 19th-century newspapers would probably only print a few hundred copies per issue. Copies were shared among friends and relatives, or in public places like taverns, until they fell apart.

As the 19th century progressed, the newspaper industry exploded with the growth of the US and the increase in literacy rates. In 1861, about 2,500 different newspapers were being published in the US, including 373 dailies. Although newspapers were still sharply political, more real "news" found its way into their columns. Larger newspapers, especially those based in New York or other major cities now employed reporters to write a wider variety of stories. Improved postal service, steam-powered travel and the telegraph carried news more swiftly than in the days of post riders and coaches. Shortly before the Civil War, pictorial weeklies, such as The Illustrated London News and Harper's Weekly, developed techniques that made elaborate woodcut illustrations economical. Printing photographic reproductions became feasible for newspapers and magazines in the 1880s, but did not completely crowd out hand-made woodcuts until after the turn of the century. Well into the 1900s, photos, especially pictures of local events and scenes, were rarer in newspapers than they are today.

Now that you have an idea of the limitations of vintage newspapers at different time periods,

what might you expect to find? Prominent people, of course, figured more in the news, but just about anyone could get their name in print—particularly in a small town newspaper with lots of column inches to fill. Military service, business ads, letters to the editor, signed petitions, school graduations, and legal squabbles were among the many things that gave an editor something to write about.

Advertisements

Since all papers, especially the earlier ones, are packed with advertisements, use that to your advantage by searching them. Some online historic newspaper providers offer the option of including or excluding advertisements in your searches. Eliminating ads cuts back on much of the “background noise”, or false hits in your searches, but might also exclude family history.

Besides advertisements that describe hometown shops and businesses, keep an eye out for classified ads. Sellers often provided detailed descriptions of farms, townhouse, ships, fine horses or stores that were being sold. Such ads might provide you with details about your ancestor’s property. One also finds many notices of lost or stolen property, especially horses, luggage or bundles of personal papers.

Legal announcements regarding taxes, government contracts, militia musters, political campaigns and town or county officials might also contain family names.

Obituaries

Obituaries are rich sources of lost genealogical information. Unfortunately, in the 18th century and much of the 19th, obituaries and death notices were fairly rare, and were printed mainly for prominent people. An exception might be a list of deaths caused by epidemics such as cholera or yellow fever. One has a better chance of finding newspaper obituaries in the late 1800s or afterward. (The same holds true for engagement, wedding, and birth announcements.) During the Civil War, fallen soldiers, including enlisted men, were remembered by obituaries placed by their grieving comrades, often under the heading “Tribute of Respect”.

Hotel Arrival Lists

If your ancestors journeyed away from their home town, they might be listed in one of the “hotel arrivals” or personal intelligence” columns that were once very common in newspapers ranging from the mighty New York Times down to the smallest whistle-stop town weeklies. Guest is listed by hotel. Unfortunately, people sometimes appear only with their surnames, first and middle initials, and home town. Women might be listed as, for example, “Miss White” or “Mrs. Wilson”, instead of their full names.

Ship Passengers

Ship passengers are also often listed in the newspapers of port towns. These were not long rosters of immigrants, but the names of perhaps a few dozen first or second-class passengers. The ship’s departure point or destination, and perhaps the name of the captain, would also be included. Steerage or deck passengers are not normally listed. Passenger listings might be found under “Arrivals from Europe” or the “marine intelligence” column, along with ship arrivals and departures, news of shipwrecks, and so on.

Celebrity-hunting is an entertaining sideline to checking the hotel and ship passenger columns. A check of hotel arrivals in one’s home town might reveal quite a list of luminaries such as former Civil War generals, senators and congressmen, famous stage performers and literary figures.

Unclaimed Letter Lists

Don’t forget the “letters advertised” columns. Before free home delivery began in 1863, everyone in the US had to drop by the post office to pick up their mail. After that date, people who lived outside towns and cities still had to pick up their own mail until rural free delivery began in 1896. Travelers arranged to have mail sent to post offices in towns that they planned to pass through. If letters were not picked up within two weeks or so, postmasters put the names on a list to be printed in local newspapers. “Letters advertised” lists won’t necessarily tell you that your ancestor lived near a particular post office, but they would at least indicate that someone thought they lived there, or would be passing through town.

Tips for Finding, Saving and Copying Clips

When searching by date for a particular event, you might need to look several weeks after it happened to find it in print. It could take as much as three months for sailing ships to bring news across the Atlantic. Before the advent of the railroad and the telegraph, news could take several weeks to travel from distant points of the US. The transmission of news was dependent upon the speed of the wind or the horse, and further slowed by poor roads and the unreliable schedules of stagecoaches and packet boats. Telegraph messages were expensive, so nonessential news would still travel cheaply but more slowly by mail.

Text scanning is dependent upon the quality of the available newspapers. The oldest papers were subject to troubles with thick or runny ink that cause scanning problems a century or two later. Some scans are made from microfilm, which may have scratches or areas of light or dark text. Digital photography programs are useful for adjusting light or dark article images.

Remember to note the name of the newspaper and the date for each selected document it might drive you crazy if you need to find the date or newspaper later. Be sure to get everything that you might possibly be interested in, in case your service or library changes its list of available newspapers in the future.

If you are searching in a library, you can save time by e-mailing PDFs of the articles that you want to your own e-mail account, so you can print them at home.

Where to Find Them

Several fee-based sites offer extensive selections of online historic newspapers. The Godfrey Library website www.godfrey.org, (available at LDS Family History Centers for free), offers a particularly rich combination that includes Newsbank's Early American newspapers, as well as Gales' "Times Digital Archive" (the Times of London, 1785-1985), several useful resources from Accessible Archives and Newsbank's "The Dallas Morning News Historical Archive" (1885-1987). Also Newspaper-Archive.com offers a spectacular collection of more than 35 million pages, from 2,239 different newspapers ranging from 1759 to 2006. Not only do they offer hundreds of city and small-town newspapers from many U.S. states, but they also have selections of papers from Canada, Britain, Ireland, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, South Africa and Denmark.

Newsbank's Early American Newspapers offers 1.5 million newspaper pages from 717 titles, mostly dating between the lone 1690 issue of Boston's Publick Occurrences Both Forreign and Domestick and 1876. Their selection covers newspapers from 23 states and the District of Columbia, and is rich in coverage of Colonial- and the Federal-era America.

The offerings from Accessible Archives, Available at the Godfrey Library, include text versions of selected articles from prominent Northern and Southern papers in "The Civil War: A Newspaper Perspective"; the Pennsylvania Gazette (1728-1800); two useful black history resources, William Lloyd Garrison's the Liberator and "African American Newspapers: The 19th Century"; and the Pennsylvania Newspaper Record: Delaware County 1819-1870".

Many of the above services can be subscribed to individually. A large selection of digital vintage newspapers is also available at Ancestry.com. In addition, your local branch or university library might now subscribe to one or more online historic newspapers.

Maybe, with a little luck, this array of online newspapers will give you an unexpected glimpse of an ancestor arriving in a new town, coming home safely from a war, spouting off on a political issue,

or otherwise just taking part in everyday life one or two centuries ago. (Freelance writer—David A. Norris, Internet Genealogy—Oct/Nov 2006)

You can kiss your family and friends good-bye and put miles between you, but at the same time you carry them with you in your heart, your mind, your stomach, because you do not just live in a world but a world lives in you.—Frederick Buechner

Family faces are magic mirrors. Looking at people who belong to us, we see the past, present, and future.—Gail Lumet Buckley

LET US HELP YOU FIND YOUR TREE IN THE FOREST – April 13 & 14, 2012
<http://rdgensoc.ab.ca/conferenceindex.html>

(AGS Conference being hosted by Red Deer Branch)

Guest Speakers

Dick Eastman—He is the owner and writer of Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and Blog. He has been involved with genealogy for more than 30 years. He has worked in the computer industry for more than 40 years in hardware, software, and managerial positions.

Thomas MacEntee (via Webinar)—As a genealogist specializing in the use of technology and social media to improve genealogical research and to interact with others in the family history community. He relies upon his 25 years of experience in the information technology field.

Gena Philibert Ortega—Holds a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Studies and a Master's degree in Religion. She is also the author of the books, "Putting the Pieces Together" and the "Cemeteries of the Eastern Sierra" (Arcadia Publishing, 2007). Gena serves as the Vice-President for the Southern California Chapter of the Association of Professional Genealogists.

Local Speakers Include:

Jim Benedict
Deanna Bullock
Ronna Byam
Shannon Cherkowski
Peter Darby
Joan Miller
Nancy Millar
Wayne Shephard
Lois Sparling