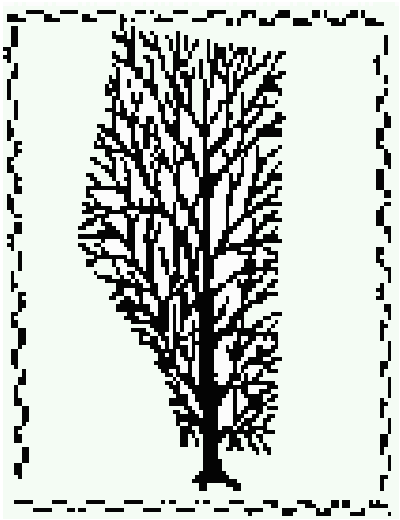
YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
Vol. 34, No. 3
November 2017
ISSN 0836-5318



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Editor's Corner

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

Lethbridge A.G.S. Branch Hours

Library Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 1:30–4:30 p.m. Meetings are 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. September through May. Visitors Welcome! Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request. See our web site at:
http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net/Exec.htm
Address: 1:28; 909 – 3rd Avenue North.
Phone: (403) 328-9564

Membership Dues

Regular individual or family (Includes 1 Branch)--$60.00, seniors (65+) individual or family (Includes 1 Branch)--$55.00. Membership is $10.00 off if you receive Relatively Speaking digitally.

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President's Message

Well, several months have now gone by for me and it has been very interesting and enjoyable. I did however, get the date wrong in my schedule and missed the November meeting! I am considering opening the library one evening or one Saturday a month, let me know if you are interested in this, either as a user or volunteer.

On June 3, 2017, we held an all-day Workshop, Genealogy at the Bridge, featuring Pat Ryan, a noted Canadian Genealogist. We had a wonderful turnout and was a great day overall. There were 51 registrants for the Saturday workshop and 22 members however, for the Sunday workshop, with both days being very informative and successful thanks to Pat's presentations.

We now have a Youth Coordinator position ably filled by Susan Haga. If you have ideas along these lines, please contact Susan. All help is appreciated, especially if you have connections with any of the schools in Lethbridge where we could present genealogy to our youth.

Please drop by the library at 128, 909 – 3rd Avenue North, Lethbridge as we have added additional shelving for our Alberta references. We also have a new computer and a larger monitor, making it easier to review online information. You can also use the large bed scanner for copying your larger items such as newspaper articles and large photographs.

Have a great holiday season,
Merry Christmas

John Squarek. President

Monthly Meetings

On Thursday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m. David Tyler gave a presentation on Research in Ireland. On Saturday, October 21st at 6 p.m. we held our Annual International Dinner at the Parkbridge Estates Community Center. There was a good attendance with many interesting ethnic dishes to choose from. Afterwards John Althouse gave a presentation on Visiting Alberta's Past. On Thursday, November 16th at 7:00 p.m. we had a webinar with Lisa Louise Cooke on Google Earth.

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

The Lethbridge Family History Center hours are: Monday 9-5 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday 9-9 p.m. and Saturday 9-1 p.m. Come by and visit our Family History (Pioneer) room.

The Blessings Of Volunteering

I've experienced many blessings volunteering my time in the pursuits of family history. One day I went to the Family History Center to look up some information on behalf of an ancestor. As I entered the library and was making my way to one of the back rooms I was stopped by a volunteer who asked if I wouldn't mind coming and helping a patron who was doing research in Manitoba and I replied yes of course. As I sat down to help this patron he said I'm researching my family who settled in Manitoba as he showed me his pedigree chart. Upon looking at his chart I was simply amazed as the family line that this man was working on was an offshoot of one of my own lines!

We first had a long conversation about how we both connected with this family. This gentleman was on vacation travelling thru and had just felt the need to stop in at the Family History Center that day to do some research. We exchanged information about our family connection explaining what we both knew about this family and how they had ended up living in the Garson, Manitoba are in early 1900's. I assisted him with his research and gave him a little more than he had expected. When he left after concluding his research he had gained more of an insight into his family than he ever felt he would have done that day and so did I.

Like this patron I too had felt to stop in at the Family History Center that day when I could have chosen to be somewhere else. I was very grateful that I had decided to help him that day instead of busily going about with my own research goals that day. We never know where our answers are going to come from whether from the pages of a book, an online resource or with the person sitting right next to us in a library. We must take every opportunity as it is presented to us. (Submitted by Susan Haga)

Find-A-Grave Has Changed

On 8 November 2017 findagrave.com changed. Some changes are cosmetic, while others are functional. A map feature has been added.

The home page has become a photograph with a few menu selections across the top. That page is dominated by the search panel, which functions largely as it did in the past and with the same options for every search box except those related to location.

The old search panel specified location via pull-down lists for country, state, and county. The new search panel offers a single box for location, in which you are supposed to type the name of a place. As you begin to type a city, county, state, or country that box auto-fills with suggested place names which you can select with a mouse click. Use the American English equivalent of a country name; *Germany* works but *Deutschland* doesn't.

The new home page's menu bar goes across the top of the screen. Clicking *CEMETERIES* takes you to a page that lets you hunt cemeteries in either of two ways. Near the top left of the page is a search box where you can type a cemetery name. This auto-fill box works as above. When you select a name, you see a hit list of cemeteries with that name. Each entry on the hit list displays some facts about that cemetery, and a link to its information page. That page contains a search box that you can use to hunt for a person's name.

Instead of using that cemetery-name search box, you can use the cemetery-place search box to its right. Clicking a place name produces a map of cemeteries near that place. You can zoom the map in or out, and can try it in any direction. (If the map doesn't display any marker pins, zoom in.) After a name is in that search box, clicking *Search* leads to a hit list of cemeteries near that place. Use this hit list the same way you use the other cemetery search box. (Ted Bainbridge, PhD, a member of the Colorado Council of Genealogical Societies Speaker's Bureau
http://www.cocouncil.org/speakersbureau.html)

Member Spotlight

(This is a new addition to our newsletter to spotlight a Branch member every issue)

Years ago, probably around 2000, my husband and I had the opportunity of going to Philadelphia. That is where his family settled after leaving Switzerland via Germany in the late 1700. They settled on a farm in Lititz, Lancaster Co., Pennsylvania, USA. We had a fabulous time, visited the old farm, took may pictures and did rubbings of some of the gravestones that the cattle were wandering around. His part of the family moved to Waterloo, Ontario area in 1805 and I wanted to find my husband's connections.

I attended an AGS meeting around that time. Everything seemed to be Alberta related and as far as I knew we had no relations in the west on his side of the family and I did not believe that on my side that we had any in Alberta. It did not seem to be what I was looking for.

I wrote family members and asked everyone to tell me stories, dictate stories, names, dates, stamped envelopes, hoping to get replies. I did that for a number of years between life, work and raising three great children. I received help at the FHC from time to time and it was through them that I went to Calgary and bought the Legacy program. More years passed and I entered what I could.

On both sides of the family and the various branches to that point had immigrated to North America and were of interest to me. In the future, my interest is to work my way across the pond.

After retirement I attended another couple of AGS meetings and Eleanor McMurchy asked if anyone was interested on working with the Legacy program on Mondays. Just what I needed. It was at that time I became a member of AGS. Amazing - the amount of support and encouragement I received from fellow members. I highly recommend getting involved with AGS, the members and the Legacy software program. We have much more than just Alberta resources in our library now. (Submitted by Kathy Stauffer)

Apps To Help You Do Your Family History

1. FamilyTree (free) provides a place for you to preserve family records. The app links to your FamilySearch account so that all of your information will be kept up-to-date on all your devices. With this app you can add stories, photographs and documents of your ancestors.

2. FamilySearch--Memories (free) Provides users with a place to collect stories and photos of family members. For no cost, you can record, preserve, and share stories shared by family members as they share some of their memories.

3. History Lines--This popular and highly rated web app can give you a detailed outline of what your ancestor's life might have been like based on where they lived. With this app, you can read about the time period and history of your ancestor's lives and learn more about them other than just a name and a date. Cost $9.99 a month or $59.00 a year.

4. American Ancestors This app provides a rich source of data for anyone looking for information about his or her American ancestors. With this app, you have access to hundreds of millions of names and hundreds of records including vital records, census records, newspapers, military records and maps and more. This app is the creation of the New England Historical Genealogical Society--Fee 89.95 a year.

5. Find-A-Grave--This is for Android it is a free app provided by Ancestry.com. It allows users to search more than 100 million graves from cemeteries around the world. Check out Google Play Store to download.

6. RootsMagic--Is a software package that provides organization tools for your family tree and family history. As you search for family records RootsMagic will connect with FamilySearch.org and MyHeritage.com to find up-to-date information on your ancestors. The free software can be found at RootsMagic Essentials Page. The upgraded version sells for $29.95 at RootsMagic Product Page.

7. Kinmapper Is a free web app that connects with your FamilySearch family tree to map the locations where your ancestors lived. It provides a fun and visual that may even uncover locations that you may not even be aware of. Go to the Kinmapper home page to download.

8. Storyworth--Innovator Challenge Winner
This is a new online app that won the People's Choice Award and the First Place Judges Prize at the 2015 RootsTech Innovator Challenge. When you sign up, you can also invite family members to register with you. Each week you will all receive an e-mail with a question about your life. Each family member's response will be recorded and be e-mailed to whomever you designate. It's an exciting way for family members to share stories that they may never have heard about each other. Cost $6.49 per month per family.

9. My Heritage Book With this online app, you can create personalized children's books based on a child's family traditions and personal family trees. Users can add information up to 6 countries where their ancestors may have lived. This is a great tool for parents and grandparents to share stories about their ancestors. Cost is $42.95--My Heritage Book website. (FamilySearch.org/blog)

Relatives Around Me

FamilySearch has added something new to their Family Tree app. It is called Relatives Around Me. The purpose of this new feature is to let you know if you are related to anyone in a group of people. It can also tell you how you are related to them.

FamilySearch's Family Tree app is a mobile companion to FamilySearch. Use it to add family photos and documents to your family tree. It is possible to add audio recordings. The app automatically syncs with FamilySearch.org, so you can pick up where you left off on any device.

To use the Relatives Around Me feature, you and your potential cousin need to be signed into the Family Tree app at the same time. The two of you need to be within 100 feet of each other. The app is available on both iOS and Android devices, and the interface looks a little bit different on each. In short, you need to use the Menu in the app and tell it to do a search.

Anyone who is signed into the Family Tree app at that moment, who is within a 100 feet of you, will show up on a list on your device. You will show up on their device. Click on the person's name in your app, and it will bring up a pedigree graphic showing your common ancestor and the lines through which you both descend. It is entirely possible to use the Relatives Around Me feature while you are out and about. There's a possibility that the app will find a person that you are related

to. It can be exciting to randomly find a cousin that you were unaware of.

FamilySearch suggests that the Relatives Around Me feature will be more fun to use while in a group setting. Use it while you are with your co-workers at a fun work party by finding out if they are related to you. A group of friends can use the app to see if they are cousins.

Every app has limitations, though. The ability for the Relatives Around Me feature to identify a person who is a cousin to you is based entirely on data that is in FamilySearch. That means the app cannot determine if a person who does not use FamilySearch, happens to be related to you. It also won't be able to show you relatives unless they are using the Family Tree app. (FamilySearch.org--www.familytree.com/blog/relatives-around-me-new-feature-in-family-tree-app/)

7 Places to Find Free Genealogy Courses

Search 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.

Family Search Learning Center:
FamilySearch.org offers the most extensive free genealogy website in the world--with a massive selection of quality courses on nearly every topic and location imaginable.

BYU Independent Study:
BYU offers a variety of courses of 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 records 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 of the webinars (but not all) and resources place a focus on finding records on ancestry.com but still are helpful for general research.

Ended RootsMOOC:
Introduction 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 for genealogy research. Despite this course's run dates it seems you can register and complete course work at anytime while it is open--including the option to take part in discussions with fellow class members.

National Genealogical Society:
If you're a member of the NGS you can take their introductory level Family History skills course free online. They also offer a selection of in-depth online courses at a reduced rate to members. If you do not have a membership you may want to consider one. The annual fee is $65.00 for an individual and it includes many benefits. (YouTube)

Researching Funeral Home Records

Using funeral home records to identify useful information not found on death certificates. The records may contain a list of the surviving immediate relatives sometimes the names of grandchildren, in-laws and other relatives. The records could provide residences for the listed relatives.

A copy of the obituary or notes used to prepare the obituary may be in the record along with a record of newspapers where the obituary was placed. Records may also contain information regarding former residences, education, church affiliation, military service, membership in clubs, lodges and other organizations.

The records may include details of the grave location or type of marker. Notes regarding funeral services such as the officiating minister, pallbearers and music may also be included. Information may also include life insurance information where additional genealogical information could be obtained.

Funeral records are private business records used to record the expenses of services provided for the burial of an individual. Funeral homes are now required to prepare and file the death certificate with the appropriate health office. Most funeral directors now also prepare the obituary notice.

Funeral records generally began in the late 19th and early 20th century (1900's). Embalming within the U.S. was not widely accepted practice until the Civil War and death of Abraham Lincoln.

Most funerals prior to the early 20th century were a family and friends event taking place at the decedent's home with the burial taking place within 24 to 48 hours of the death. Funeral homes or parlors were not used and caskets were made by local cabinet maker or furniture maker.

Large cities were more likely to have earlier funeral home records. Most rural areas did not have funeral homes until the early 20th century. Funeral directors are now responsible for initiating and filing the death certificates. Since the 1950's many funeral homes have merged with other firms or have gone out of business.

Funeral records include death certificates, ledgers and miscellaneous loose papers.

Genealogical facts in entries are:
--Name of the deceased
--Death date and place of the deceased
--Burial date and place of the deceased
--Name of the informant
--Residence of the deceased
--Names of family members such as spouses, children, and other relatives or friends.
--Copy of an obituary or notes used to prepare the obituary and/or a list of newspapers where obituary was place. (Family Search Wiki)

Google To Find Your Family History

Google has amazing ways to help you find your elusive ancestors in the world of family history. Google searches the internet 24/7 and indexes all of them so when we research online typing in a name or a place could bring up millions of records in a second. By using some of Google's specific techniques researchers may save numerous hours. Learn how to use these tips and tricks to shorten your research time.

First Google is not case sensitive. Spelling is not restrictive to accuracy. Little words are generally ignored unless you need them to be. Punctuation is generally ignored also. This means that a ? is no longer used as a wild card. Do not use @ for about. Do not use ( ) = 4% & or tilde. Commas are not necessary although it doesn't matter if you use them.

Google gets to know your habits in searching and often will provide short cuts for you. Google has added and will continue to add advantageous helps. It keeps track of what you're doing and then it can help you with your researching. Before you get started to Google, identify what and who you are looking for. Do not start with asking every question that you'd like answered all in the first attempt. Start small then build upon what you know and are able to find.

Tips to Get Started
1. Always put names in quotation marks. Eg. "John Burton". You can always put words or phrases in quotation marks as well. Eg "John Burton" "Westham, Essex, England". Google recognizes synonyms of all genealogical words: birth/christening, banns/marriage, and death/burial/tombstone/wills/probates/cemeteries2. Minus sign - is a valuable tool when you need to eliminate unwanted information that may be interrupting your search. E.g. "John A. McDonald" Prime Minister. This will eliminate the Prime Minister but pick up any others with that name. You can use more than one minus in your query.
3. Using Boolean words such as Or, AND, E.g. "John Burton" OR "Burton John". It does not matter the order of the words.
4. Use AROUND to specify information you want associated with your search. E.g.. "John Burton" AROUND "Hannah Brooks". You include in this a number in brackets which tells Google how many words can separate the names or phrases. E.g. "John Burton" AROUND (3) "Hannah Brooks" which to Google only find John Burton within 3 words of Hannah Brooks. It doesn't matter what number you choose.
5.We no longer use * or ? as wild cards but we can use the *to hold a place for something we might not know is there such as an initial , keyword or phrase. E.g. "John* Burton" leaves Google room to pick up perhaps a middle name.
6. Date ranges can be very helpful in shortening your search. Use only two periods between years. E.g. "John Burton" 1608..1619. This will bring up any site with the name at any time during these years and open the range of findings.
7. When you need to define a term you don't understand the meaning of, use Define: _____ Do not put a space after the colon.
8. Google will link you to some link you have used in the past or link them to your findings. You will be able to meet family you didn't know existed but have common searching Use link: _____ your address or someone else's.
9. You can also use related: _____
(url of something you've found useful and want to know if there is more).
10. **Google Alert** is a great tool when you have exhausted all the tricks you know to help find what you are looking for. Google keeps track of what you usually search for and keeps a history unless you choose to not allow it to. However, because its searching all of the time and indexes all the findings that may be related to what you are searching for. It will then send you a message through your g-mail or other chosen e-mail with the information. You can have up to a 1000 alerts open at one time
11. Include YouTube (a Google creation) in your searching.
12. Use site specific when you know what site you found them on before. E.g. site: ancestry.com.
13. When you know names or phrases were part of a title but can't remember where that was, try allintext. When you are using 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, or do not leave a space after the colon.

When all else fails, there is Google Advanced Search. Before you try this application, you should have tried many of these tips together, trying different variations. When you are still stuck, using the Google Advanced Search will have Google try for you. They will be using their own tips and tricks to do so. You will then receive an e-mail with any findings.

Google's Tool Box Has Many Other Great Features To Help

Google Scholar "provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions. from academic publishers, professional societies, online repositories, universities and other web sites."

Google Books (more than 25 million titles of books). It will search the full text.

Google Newspapers "provides a simple way to broadly search for scholarly literature. From one place, you can search across many sources: articles, theses, books, abstracts and court opinions, and from academic publishers, and online repositories, universities and other web sites."

Google Images is an amazing way to add pictures of what life or things may have looked like for your ancestors.

Google Earth accesses satellites and you can zoom in on geographical areas your ancestors may have lived.

Google Translate is an amazing way to translate foreign language words into English (and vice versa). It cannot read digitized documents so you may have the letters of words for you to see it. It can detect what language it is from if you did not know where the words came from.

Any one of these tools may find things you were not expecting. Often we can't remember where we saw something good before. You can save any or all of your searches that were successful in: onenote.com or evernote.com or other cloud storages that you may prefer. (50 Google Tips & Tricks for Online Researchers--Rock Co. Genealogical Society)

Brickwall Clues

At some point every family historian encounters a barrier in their genealogy research. In genealogy, these barriers are known as brick walls and they often can appear impossible to work around. When you have exhausted all obvious possibilities consider the less obvious.

Names are often the first brick wall that researchers their ancestors stumble upon. Here are some suggestions to work around your name brick walls.

1. Maiden Names
Most countries have some kind of national identification number. In the U.S. they are called Social Security Numbers, in Canada they are called Social Insurance Numbers. Most countries allow genealogists to search application forms for these records if these records are older than a specified cutoff date (usually several decades, it varies from country to country). These applications always list the mother's maiden name. This is one of the few places on official records that a mother's maiden name is found.

2. Maiden Names Again
Another extremely useful place to find a woman's maiden names are in court documents. Divorce cases, property disputes, immigrant change of name, applications for guardianship of a child, etc. all required a woman's maiden name. It should be noted in early court documents (pre-1900 in the U.S.), a woman was often represented by her husband, father or uncle so be sure to search under their names as well.

3. Middle Name
Names are more fluid than most people realize. It is not unheard of for people to start showing a preference to refer to themselves on official records by their middle name. This can happen even once a person reaches middle age. Always cross check archival records by first and middle name.

4. Common Family Names
Trying to trace the genealogy of a family with a common surname can often be a challenge. One way that you can tilt the probabilities in your favor is to look at the names of all of the immediate family members. Initially, focus your research on the person in the family with the least common first name. This will increase your chances of finding a successful match and also hopefully speed up the search process.

5. Short Family Names
People with short family names often mistakenly think that there is little likelihood of a misspelling of their family name in old records. After all how could you misspell an easy family name like Ball. Remember that the spelling of the family name has evolved over time. For example, there is a distinct possibility that a family name that ended in a double letter like double "l" in Ball at one time could have had an e on the end of the name. Ball becomes Balle, Tall becomes Talle and etc.

6. Aliases
In historical records, people used aliases all the time. A couple of common aliases: using the middle name as the last name, using the mother's maiden name as a last name and anglicizing a non-English family name. (Genealogyintime.com)

Seven Powerful Technologies

My Heritage.com has developed seven powerful technologies to help genealogist find records of ancestral families without even searching--while you sleep.

1. Smart Matching--matching people within MyHeritage Trees. Smart Matching is a unique technology that matches between the individuals in your family tree and more than 2.6 billion individuals in 40 million other family trees on MyHeritage.com. The matching technology is sophisticated and bridges across differences in spelling, phonetics and relationships that may exist between the trees.

How Does Smart Matching Work--Each time you add or edit an individual in a family tree, it tries to connect that individual or any relatives to millions of people in other family trees published by other MyHeritage users, thereby comparing millions of names, facts and connections intelligently. When a match is found, both owners are informed, and benefit from both collaboration and learning from each other. See your tree and the matching tree side by side to spot similarities and differences.

The enhanced Smart Matching allows users to confirm or reject any match , and the platform distinguishes between matches that were confirmed or rejected by each respective tree owner. Users also have ability to start discussions about matches encouraging dialogue between researchers and family members about discoveries and the exchange of noteworthy information on mutual relatives.

What is Recording Matching? Record Matching technology is designed to automatically find matching historical records for the family trees of our users, from our growing collection of +8 billion of records, The goal of Record Matching is to be a discovery-finder and a time saver. It will automatically research every individual in every family tree on MyHeritage consolidating all the relevant historical records found in one interactive report, which the user can then go over systemically. Automatic research is not a substitute for manual research, but it can certainly make discoveries that many users will not have the time or luck to find on their own. You are encouraged to confirm or reject the matches (indicating that they are correct or incorrect respectively). This is helpful to mark matches you have already reviewed in order to easily work your way through the matches. Incorrect matches will move out of the way and become hidden from view when you refresh the page.

What is Record Detective

Record Detective it's the first technology of its kind to automatically extend the paper trail from a single historical record to other related records and family tree connections. Record Detective generates new leads and discoveries by turning a single record into a door to more. For example, a record discovered in MyHeritage's digital archive, SuperSearch , will automatically include a summary of additional records and individuals in family trees relating to it, providing new information and clues to take your new research to new directions.

What Are Instant Discoveries

Instant Discoveries is a unique experience for discovering family history information and applying it to one's tree on MyHeritage with ease. We released this experience for new users to make it easier for them to embark on their family history journey. By signing up at MyHeritage and entering some basic information about immediate family members, new users discovered ancestors, relatives and never-seen-before photos in just a few seconds.

Instant Discoveries is also available to previous users of MyHeritage enabling multiple individuals and photos to be added to existing family trees in just a few clicks. An Instant Discovery is a "package" of family history information that you can apply in one click. If an individual in your family tree connects to a branch in another family tree, you'll be alerted about this and then can choose to add everyone in that branch (up to 40-50 people) to your tree, who is not already there, in one go, rather than manually add people one by one, and amend the data piece by piece.

With People Discoveries, an entire branch can be copied in a single click, along with all facts, events and photos, and source citations are automatically created in the target tree to document exactly where the data came from.

Photo Discoveries makes it easy for you to add photographs to people in your family tree who currently do not have any photos, in just a few clicks, based on the work of other users.

What is Global Name Translation

Global Name Translation technology unique to MyHeritage, to help break through these language barriers in the quest to uncover your past. This innovation makes it even easier to discover your global roots. The technology automatically translates names found in historical records and family trees from one language into another, at very high accuracy, generating all plausible translations, to facilitate matches between names in different languages.

In addition, a manual search on MyHeritage's Supersearch, will return results in other languages, automatically translated into the language of the

query. How can this benefit you? For example, perhaps your American family has Russian roots. Previously, you would have needed to search also in Russian to find all information available about your ancestors. Now you can search in English and receive results in Russian, translated back into English for your convenience.

What is Search Connect

Search Connect includes millions of searches made by MyHeritage members. It allows you to find other users who searched for the people you are looking for, and to view the full data of their search (such as dates, places, relatives and more), as well as similar searches that they've made. If you find a result that seems relevant or useful, you can contact the person who conducted the search and get in touch to exchange more information.

Search Connect results are included in SuperSearch, MyHeritage's powerful search engine for historical records. It's a new collection, located in Family Trees category, and you can also search it on its own. Initially containing more than 30 million entries of unique searches by MyHeritage members, for rare names. Search Connect will continue to grow every week as more users conduct new searches.

What is Book Matching

Book Matching automatically researches individuals found in family trees in our vast collection of digitized historical books, using semantic analysis to understand every sentence in the page, in order to find matches with very high accuracy. Every match is a paragraph from a book specifically about the person in the family tree, providing direct access to that paragraph and the ability to browse through the rest of the book.

What is PedigreeMap?

PedigreeMap displays all events in MyHeritage user's family tree, such as births, marriages, and deaths, as well as digital photos and scanned historical photos, on an interactive map. All data is grouped by country and location, and users can easily filter their view of the map by person, family group, event type, and time period. My Heritage converts every place name referenced in your family tree or your photos into geographical coordinates. After the coordinates are calculated, your family history events are plotted on the map.

PedigreeMap can "Find and Replace" place names for standardization and to improve the data quality in your family tree. If you have spelled a place name incorrectly or inconsistently throughout your tree, you can easily change these in PedigreeMap and this change will be reflected on that individual's family tree profile. Place names are grouped by location so you can easily see if you have misspelled a place name

PedigreeMap indicates places where you didn't use standard canonicalized place names. It will detect spelling errors in place names, and suggest fixes. A small red dotted line next to a place name in the list indicates that there are further suggestions for change.

What is DNA Matching

MyHeritage affordable, easy-to-use DNA home testing kit can reveal valuable family history information and tell you more about your origins. MyHeritage DNA provides two main features: DNA Matching for finding relatives, and detailed ethnicity reports that map your ethnic and geographic origins. The DNA Matching service enables those who use the MyHeritage DNA test--or who have tested through other services and upload the raw data--to enjoy MyHeritage's exceptional matching capabilities for their family history research.

For every DNA Match, MyHeritage displays the possible relationship between you and the other person. If your match has a family tree, you'll also be able to view it and get more insight about how you are related; the ancestral surnames common or not in both trees; a pedigree chart for the two main individuals and any possible SmartMatch existent between the trees. You can then contact your DNA Matches to exchange information and collaborate on your research. The DNA result also include a fascinating breakdown of your ancestral ethnicity. You can see the percentage of your DNA that comes from different populations around the world displayed in a list or a world map. The Ethnicity Estimates may confirm long-held beliefs about your family origins, or perhaps reveal family roots in unexpected places. (MyHeritage.com)

OneNote

Microsoft OneNote is a computer based free-form information gathering and multi-user collaboration. It gathers user's notes (hand or typewritten) drawings, screen clippings and audio commentaries. OneNote can be shared with other OneNote users over the internet and network. OneNote is available as part of MS Office and Windows 10. It is also available as a free stand alone application for Windows, Windows Phone, iOS and Android. In OneNote users can enter typed text via keyboard, create tables and insert pictures. However, unlike a word processor users can write anywhere on a virtually unbounded document window by clicking there. Also users do not need to explicitly save their work as OneNote saves it automatically as the user works.

OneNote saves information in pages organized into sections within notebooks. The interface

provides an electronic version of a tabbed ring binder, into which the user can make notes and gather material from other applications. OneNote notebooks collect and organize, and share possibly unpublished materials - as compared to word processors and wikis, which usually target publishing in some way. The difference shows in certain OneNote features and some characteristics:
--pages can be arbitrarily large
--bitmap images can be inserted without loss of quality
--there is no enforced uniform page layout or structure

Users can move pages within the binders and annotate them with a stylus and a word processor and drawing tools. Users may add embedded multimedia recordings and web links. While OneNote usually runs on lap tops and desktop PCs, additional features support pen-enabled supported tablet computers, in environments where pen, audio or video notes are more appropriate than intensive use of keyboard.

OneNote integrates search features and indexing into free-form graphics and audio repository. It can search images (e.g. screen captures and embedded document scans and photographs) for embedded text content. It also searches "electronic ink" annotations as in text and phonetically searches audio recordings on a text key. It can replay audio concurrently with notes taken during recording. Its multi-user capability allows offline paragraph-level editing with later synchronizing and merging. This facilitates collaboration among workgroup members who are not always online. More than one person can work on the same page at the same time--using OneNote as a shared whiteboard environment.

On March 17, 2014, Microsoft released the one cloud service API that enables third-party application developers to integrate the service into their apps. The API runs on Microsoft's globally available cloud and sends data from applications into the user's OneDrive.

While the services data in OneNote notebook it can also do things like run Optical Character Recognition on images and rendering web pages as snapshot images. (See OneNote.com)

Digital Records Access on FamilySearch

As of September 7, 2017 the FamilySearch Library has ceased the ordering of microfilms. The change is the result of significant progress in FamilySearch's digitization efforts and the obsolescence of microfilm technology. Digital imaging has made it easier to find ancestors through the internet, mobile and other technologies.

How Are Digital Images Accessed on FamilySearch.org?

Digital image collections can be accessed today in three places on familysearch.org under Search. Records includes collections that have been indexed by name or published with an image browse. Books include digital copies of books from the Family History Library and other libraries including many books that were previously copied to microfilm.

The Catalog includes a description of all the microfilms in the FamilySearch collection. A camera icon appears in the Catalog when a microfilm is available digitally. For additional help see Finding Digital Images of Records on FamilySearch.org.

How Much of the Microfilm Collection is Available Online?

Over 1.5 million microfilms (ca. 1.5 billion images) have been digitized by FamilySearch, including the most requested collections based on microfilm loan records worldwide. In addition, many records that FamilySearch has not yet published can be found online on partner or free archive websites.

FamilySearch plans to finish microfilm digitization by 2020. Digital images may have contractual , data privacy, or other restrictions, insofar as possible, restricted images are accessible by logging in with a FamilySearch account or by viewing FamilySearch.org at a family history center.

What if a Microfilm Is Not Available Digitally on FamilySearch.org?

Microfilms may not yet be available digitally on FamilySearch.org for the following reasons:
-the microfilm may not be a priority to scan now, because the same content is already available on FamilySearch.org, a partner or subscription site offered in family history centers, or a free archive site.
-the microfilm may be scheduled for future scanning because it's been in lower demand.
-the microfilm may have a contractual, data privacy, or other restriction preventing access. FamilySearch is making every effort to ease restrictions, which is dependent upon decisions of record custodians applicable laws.

Why Is the Microfilm Distribution Service Being Discontinued Before Microfilm Digitization is Complete?

The microfilm industry has been declining for a couple of decades since the advent of digitization. The cost of vesicular film used to duplicate microfilm for circulation has risen dramatically while demand has decreased significantly. At the

same time it has become increasingly difficult and costly to maintain the equipment, systems, and processes required for film duplication, distribution and access. It is not feasible for FamilySearch to continue the microfilm distribution service for longer than it already has. Meanwhile, digitization is nearing completion and many of the records FamilySearch has not yet digitized are available on other websites accessible to FamilySearch patrons.

By reinvesting resources in digital efforts, FamilySearch can accelerate and improve electronic access.

Will Original Vault Master Microfilms Be Preserved?
Yes, the original master copies of the microfilm will continue to be preserved in the Granite Mountain Records Vault as a backup to the digital images. The masters are preservation only and not for circulation.

What About Microfiche?
Microfiche circulation also ended at the same time as microfilm. Check online for digital copies of any microfiche by checking the Family History Catalog.

Will Microfilm Continue to be Available at the Family History Library in Salt Lake?
The Family History Library staff continually evaluates the needs of patrons and the balances of services it provides. Microfilm that is currently in FHL collection that is not yet online will stay. Most other microfilm will stay for the time being, although some may be removed here and there to accommodate space needs. There may be opportunities to add films to the collection from other locations. The library will no longer be able to offer ordering of new films from the vault.

Requesting to Have a Film Digitized
Anyone can request to have a film not yet digitized to be digitized. There is no idea of how quickly it will be happen but it will move up in the list as digitization requests before yours are completed.

Please Use These Steps to Make a Digitization Request
1. In the FamilySearch Catalog , find the films that you need.
--You can request up to five films at a time.
--If you see a camera icon next to the film number, the film is already online.
2. Either print the catalog entry, or copy the following information for each film that you need.
--Film number
--Film title or name
3. Contact by phone, chat, or e-mail, and make your request. Then ask for our Historical Records Team.

Please be aware that:
FamilySearch may not be able to scan and publish some films online, due to contractual or other legal restrictions. FamilySearch is working on solutions to make these images available in the future.
--Requests will be processed in the order that they are received and may need to wait behind other scanning priorities. FamilySearch therefore cannot provide an estimate for when a film will be digitized.
--FamilySearch does not yet have the necessary facilities in place to provide a notification for when a requested film has been digitized, but hopes to be able to offer this soon.
--FamilySearch apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause. In the meantime, continue to check the Catalog to find out if the films you've requested are available online. (www.familysearch.org)

50 Free Genealogy Websites

FamilySearch.org: The largest collection of free genealogy records in the world.

Wikitree: Enormous collaborative family tree.

Fulton History: Numerous historical newspapers from United States and Canada.

Find-A-Grave: Locate your ancestors anywhere.

Google News Archive: Millions of archives and newspaper pages.

US National Archives: Official US National Archives Site, and many free genealogy databases and resources.

Automated Genealogy: Free Canadian Census Indexes and Soldiers of the First World War.

FreeBMD: Civil Registration for England & Wales.

USGenWeb Project: Massive free genealogy resource directory by US State and county.

WorldGenWeb Project: Genealogy Resources by country and region.
Cyndi's List: Directory of free genealogy and resources and databases online.

Library and Archives Canada: official archives of Canada, census records.

Ellis Island: Immigration Records, free index and original records. There is a fee to download copies.

FreeReg: Baptisms, marriages and burials from parish registrations of the UK.

Crestleaf: Various genealogy records.

Rootsweb: World's largest genealogy community, huge amount of free information.

Castlegarden: Immigration records--pre-Ellis Island records.

Chronicling America: Giant database of archived US newspapers from Library of Congress.

Dead Fred: Genealogy Photo Archive.
African Heritage Project: Records on former slaves, freed persons and their descendants.

Immigration Ancestors Project: Immigration registers for locating birth places of immigrants in their native countries.

Daughters of the American Revolution: Military service records and more.

JewishGen: Jewish Ancestry Research.

FreeCen: Transcribed Census Records--the UK.

Access Genealogy: Vast amount of family history directories. Has good Native American resources.

British Library, India Office: Records on British and European in India pre-1950.

Guild of One-Name Studies: Extensive Surname Research site.

Geneabloggers: Massive directory of genealogy related blogs with a huge amount of free information.

NativeWeb Genealogy: List of Native American Genealogy resources and searchable databases.

Viximus: Member submitted biographical information.

Wiewaswie: For researching ancestors from the Netherlands (in Dutch).

UK National Archives: Official National Archives of the UK.

The National Archives of Ireland: Official Archives of Ireland.

Genuki: Reference Library of Genealogical resources for the UK and for Ireland.

German Genealogy Server: German ancestry research (many sections in Germany).

Preserve the Pensions: War of 1812 pension record access.

Civil War Soldiers & Sailors System: Civil War Records from the National Park Service.

LitvakSIG: Lithuanian Jewish Genealogy Databases & Resources.

Italian Genealogical Group: Italian American genealogy resources and databases.

Internet Archive: A large amount of information useful to genealogical researchers.

Billion Graves: Headstone records.

Open Library: Includes a lot of Family History Books. Search for surnames or locations.

GenDisasters: For researching and other events your ancestors might have been involved in.

Romany Genes: Romanichal ancestry research .

Patriot & Grave Index: Revolutionary War Graves Registry and Patriot index from the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Illinois Digital Newspaper Collection: Vast number of archived US newspapers.

Seventh-Day Adventist Obituary Database: Hundreds of thousands of obituary entries.

Slaktdata: Genealogy Records for Sweden.

Hispanic Genealogy: A wonderful list of resources for researching Hispanic ancestry.

Free Genealogy Search Engine: Search hundreds of free genealogy resources at one time
on Family History Daily. (To find the websites URL just Google the names of the websites above.) (There are more free genealogy websites online. Information taken from Family History Daily.)

Genealogy Tidbits
"I have not failed. I've just found ten thousand ways that won't work." Thomas Edison

Genealogists never die, they just lose their roots.

It seems that my ancestors are hiding in the witness protection program.