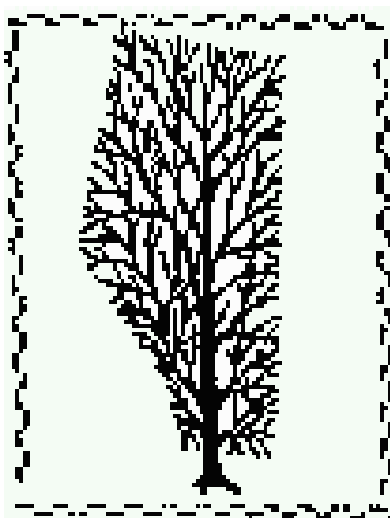


**YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS**  
**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
**Lethbridge and District Branch**  
**Vol. 36, No. 3**  
**Nov 2019**  
**ISSN 0836-5318**



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Executive Committee	2
President's Message	2
Monthly Meetings	2
Lethbridge Branch Hrs/Membership Dues	2
Spotlight—Marion Fleming	2-3
Lethbridge Family History Center	3
Beyond 2022—Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury	3
France Genealogy Websites	3-4
Three Essential Websites for German Family History Research	4
Six Best Websites for Wales Research	4-5
History of Parish Registers in England	5-6
Italian Heritage Without Leaving Home	6-8
Other Danger Zones Mistaken Identity	8-9
Researching Genealogy in Russia	9-10
Russian Genealogy Online Databases & Websites	10-11
Family History Conferences	12
Genealogy Humor	12

## 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](mailto: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 December but can be open on request. See our web site at:

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

**Address: 1:28; 909 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue North.**

**Phone: (403) 328-9564**

### Membership Dues

Individual or Family Membership (Includes 1 Branch)--\$60.00, Seniors (65+) Individual or Family (Includes 1 Branch)--\$55.00. If you receive Relatively Speaking digitally your membership is \$10.00 off except for Youth membership \$5.00—Young Adult membership \$25.00 (includes RS).

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President	Marilyn Astle
Vice President	Barry Simmonds
Treasurer	Pat Barry
Secretary	Julie Miller
Past President	John Squarek

#### BRANCH COMMITTEE

BMD.	Eleanor McMurchy
Cemetery	Eleanor McMurchy
Librarian	Win Evans
Publicity	Win Evans
Researchers	Eleanor McMurchy
Computer	Doug McLeod
Newsletter Editor	Susan Haga
Web Master	Doug McLeod
Youth Rep	Susan Haga
Programs	Laureen Tetzloff
Advisory Group	Doug McLeod, Nestor Martinez, Susan Haga, E. McMurchy, Pat Barry, Phyllis Burnett & Win Evans

## President's Message

Our AGS Branch has had a busy and productive autumn with a field trip, our international dinner, several interesting speakers, a reorganization of our center and a collaboration with a local school. As always, many volunteer hours went into making these events happen. Now with our gardens put to bed and winter upon us, our thoughts turn to staying warm and cozy indoor pursuits like family gatherings and genealogy research. This short message comes to wish each of you a joyous festive season and happy ancestor hunting in 2020. –Pres Marilyn Astle

## Monthly Meetings

We held our Annual International Dinner on Saturday, October 19th. We were pleased to have our AGS President, Jock Howard who gave a wonderful family history presentation “The Copper Printing Plate” How a copper printing plate used for his parents wedding invitations led to information about Granddaddy’s WWII service. There were lots of tasty International potluck food items to enjoy and plenty of door prizes! At our November meeting Glen Miller from the Royal Canadian Legion, General Stewart Branch #4, spoke to us about using Military Records to further genealogical research and finding unmarked graves of Veterans.

## Spotlight

My membership to AGS all started on the golf course in 1981. My husband and I had recently moved to Lethbridge from Calgary. Once settled I had decided to try out the golf courses. At the second hole I joined another lady who was also alone. As we chatted, we discovered that she lived right across the alley from us. The lady was Bodil Johansen. She told me about her hobby of genealogy and invited me to a meeting. At the very first meeting I found myself volunteering for something and the rest is pretty much history. At some point I volunteered to look after the library, a position I held for several years. Somehow, I morphed into answering the mail enquiries along with Phyllis Burnett and later Eleanor McMurchy.

There had been a lot of research done on my Blosser family. Eventually I was able to trace them back to the first immigrants in the United States from Switzerland to the early 1700’s. It wasn’t until I retired that I started working on my mother’s family, the Halls in Yorkshire. In 2007 my daughter and I visited two cousins in East Yorkshire. In 2008 I took a solo trip to Michigan where I attended a Blosser reunion meeting

many cousins. I also rented a car and visited a cousin in Indiana. From there I continued onto Ohio and Pennsylvania where I did research in cemeteries, in archives and farms where the Blossers first settled.

While I do not do much research anymore, I do keep in touch with several of the people that I met along the way. This year I was contacted by a cousin from California that I met through DNA. In August this year we celebrated the centennial of the Blosser family farm in Saskatchewan. I was able to contribute some charts so that our younger generations now know their ancestors. (Written by Marion Fleming)

### **Lethbridge Family History Center Hours**

The Lethbridge Family History Center will close Dec 5th and re-open on January 7th. FHC's hours have changed slightly. They will be open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.

### **Beyond 2022—Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury**

Digitizations Beyond 2022 is bringing Ireland's Public Record Office back to life by creating "3D" Virtual reality reconstruction of the destroyed Record Treasury building and refilling its shelves with fully searchable surviving documents and copies of lost records.

On 30 June 1922, at the outset of the Irish Civil War, a cataclysmic explosion and fire destroyed Ireland at the Four Courts, Dublin. Flames and heat consumed seven centuries of Ireland's magnificent six-story Victorian repository known as the Record Treasury.

On the centenary of the 1922 blaze Beyond 2022 will unveil Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury—a Public Record Office of Ireland building and its collections.

Ireland's Virtual Record Treasury will serve both as essential platform for academic research and reach an impact.

--National Archives (Dublin)

--The National Archives (UK)

--The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland

--The Irish Manuscripts Commission

A project by Trinity College Dublin in collaboration with the National Archives, the National Archives (UK), the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland and the Irish Manuscripts Commission. The project aims to create a virtual reconstruction of the Records Treasury of the Public Record Office of Ireland, which was destroyed during the Irish Civil War in 1922.

The 3D model will be built from original

architectural plans and early twentieth-century photographic evidence. The project will also compile an inventory of material destroyed in 1922, and will identify surviving material and surrogate copies, or substitutes, available in various repositories in Ireland and in the UK.

Further information is available on the project website [www.beyond2022.ie](http://www.beyond2022.ie).

### **Impact**

This international collaboration project seeks to ensure a most lasting legacy—within these islands – and an invaluable resource which will continue growing beyond the current project will provide a means of re-connecting with 700 years of Ireland's past once believed to have disappeared.

The collaboration between Trinity College and its archival partners –The National Archives (Dublin), The National Archives (UK), The Public Record Office of Northern Ireland, and The Irish Manuscripts Commission is symbolic. (See website <https://beyond2022.ie>)

### **France Genealogy Websites**

[www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) Ancestry has many digitized French records, including records for Paris, Alsace-Lorraine, Allier, Alpes-Maritimes, Marne, Saone-et-Loire, and Oise.

[www.archives-numerisees.ain.fr](http://www.archives-numerisees.ain.fr) You'll need to know a little French to use this site, but its records make it well worth the effort to translate. Here you will find civil and parish register records that have been made available online, all of which are searchable by name, which makes it so much easier to find our ancestors. Decennial indexes, census records from 1836-1975, estate records that are also searchable by name, military records, and old newspapers records and photographs are available for free on this valuable website maintained by the French government.

[www.cyndislist.com/france](http://www.cyndislist.com/france) Cyndi's List France. Links to many online resources for French genealogy.

[www.geopatronymie.com](http://www.geopatronymie.com) Geopatronymie Find where in France people with your surname lived from 1891-1990

[www.francegenweb.org](http://www.francegenweb.org) France GenWeb Links to many important genealogical websites, including the department online websites, gazetteers, military names republican calendar

converters, and Huguenot names and places.

[www.genealogy.about.com/od/france/.../France-Genealogy-Records-Online.htm](http://www.genealogy.about.com/od/france/.../France-Genealogy-Records-Online.htm) French Genealogy Online Databases and Records

[www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense.gouv.fr/](http://www.memoiredeshommes.sga.defense.gouv.fr/) Memoires Des Hommes Identifies casualties of war from WWI and WWII.

[www.geneanet.com](http://www.geneanet.com) Geneanet This website contains more than 2 million civil and parish records from France that were contributed by users who found and copied those records for digitization. There are also scanned books on French genealogy as well as a selection of other French Genealogy resources. Some of the records are free to access, while others require the purchase of credits to use on the site to see the full record beyond just the name on the index. If you have any French ancestors at all going back to the 1300's.

<http://community.familysearch.org> FamilySearch Community and click on groups. You can get immediate research and handwriting help from a community of researchers through the FamilySearch Communities. Search for France Genealogy Research. You can post research questions and upload documents to get translation help.

### Finding A Locality

For help locating a place in France, try the following sources: Google, Wikipedia, FamilySearch Wiki article France Gazetteers Try a keyword search in the FamilySearch Catalog for France Gazetteers. ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), wiki)

### Three Essential Websites for German Family History Research

1. [www.MeyersGaz.org](http://www.MeyersGaz.org)  
This online database not only explains the text and various abbreviations in the town entry that are found in the original printed version of Meyers, but also pinpoints the location of the town on both historic and modern maps, indicates the Catholic and Protestant parishes to which residents of the town would have belonged, and notes the distance from the town to all parishes within a 20-mile radius.
2. [www.Kartenmeister.com](http://www.Kartenmeister.com)  
Kartenmeister is a database for towns that are found east of the Oder and

Neisse rivers in the former German Empire provinces of East Prussia, West Prussia, Brandenburg, Posen, Pomerania, and Silesia. This area is now part of modern Poland. The database allows users to search for towns using either their German or Polish name.

3. [www.LostShoeBox.com](http://www.LostShoeBox.com)  
This website is an index to 17 websites focused on researching German ancestors in Poland. The list of websites corresponds with a map of Poland divided into its various provinces. Each number (representing a website) is listed on the map in each province for which it has records. Some websites are listed for nearly every province, while others show up for only one or two. (See website [www.legacytrees.com](http://www.legacytrees.com))

### Six Best Websites for Wales Research

1. **National Library of Wales**  
This website signposts all kinds of information aimed at beginners, plus descriptions of the library's vast holdings—950,000 photos, 1,500,000 maps, 5,000,000 digital images and e-resources, and 15 km of archives.  
It holds the Church in Wales Archive, preserving registers of baptisms, marriages and burials, as well as Bishops Transcripts, wills and marriage bonds.  
One of several important online tools is the Welsh wills probate database, which provides digital images of wills proved in Welsh ecclesiastical courts before the civil probate system as introduced in 1858.
2. **The Wales Collection**  
Findmypast's Wales Collections was launched in 2011 through a partnership with the NLW and the Welsh County Archivists Group.  
From this landing page you can explore datasets from each county – click on Caernarvonshire Banns, for example, and you discover these go from 1752-1926, and these may reveal your ancestor's names,

marital status, and when and where they got married. You may even be able to find out if the marriage didn't go ahead.

### 3. **CYMRU 1914**

The CYMRU 1914 centenary project has seen the digitization of sources relating to the First World War within libraries, special collections and archives across Wales.

It launched in 2013, and you can browse its catalogue by source type – newspapers, journals, sound recordings and more. While you may not find a reference to an ancestor, it has fascinating material which may inspire your research.

There's also the educational Wales at War website, which is building biographies of Welsh men and women who lost their lives.

### 4. **Archives Wales**

This is the single-search hub to more than 7,000 collections across 21 archives in Wales – the equivalent of TNA's Discovery and also the body which leads to all kinds of cross-archive projects.

The 'Find your archive' tab leads to a list of contributing archives from Aberystwyth University Archives to Wrexham Archives and Local Studies, with descriptions of key collections, contact details and links.

Remember that the 'Search' box near the top of the page conducts searches within the website itself – go back to the home page or road test the catalogue. A search for 'Scott', for example, turned up anti-slavery letters in Aberystwyth and deeds in Denbighshire.

### 5. **Welsh Journals and Newspapers**

This website grants access to around 15 million articles and 1.1 million pages from a huge range of Welsh- and English-language titles, and you can narrow your search to focus on family notices and other announcements.

Unlike the British Newspaper

Archive, access is completely free. There's also NLW's sister website Welsh Journals, which is due for an overhaul.

It provides access to journals published in Wales during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries

### 6. **Expert's Choice: Cynffin**

This website provides access to over 1,200 digitized tithe maps and associated apportionments.

"Many of us will have traced our family history back through civil registration, parish records and census returns to the 1840's when these maps were created. They were often the earliest large-scale maps of our towns and villages.

Map apportionments not only help locate the places where our ancestors lived, but also give us other information relating to ownership, the acreage of land, crops, field names, occupancy and rights of way. (By Greg Davies—[www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com](http://www.whodoyouthinkyouaremagazine.com))

### **History of Parish Registers in England**

Parish registers were formally introduced in England on September 5, 1538 following the split from Rome when Thomas Cromwell, minister to Henry VIII, issued an injunction requiring the registers of baptisms, marriages and burials to be kept.

**Medieval** - In medieval times there were no parish registers. For some years before the Reformation, monastic houses especially the smaller ones) the parish priest had been developing the custom of noting in an album or on the margins of the service books, the births and deaths of local families.

**1538** – Through the efforts of Thomas Cromwell a mandate was issued by Henry VIII to keep parish registers. This order that every parson, vicar or curate was to enter in a book every wedding,

christening and burial in his parish. The parish was to provide a sure coffer with two locks, the parson having custody of one key, the wardens the other. The entries were to be made each Sunday after the service in the presence of one of the wardens. The mandate was enforced under a penalty of 3 sols, 4 deniers for repair of the church. These entries were made on paper, sometimes on loose sheets. The bishop in their visitations were to see that the names of the sponsors were duly entered in the registers of baptism. The parishioner's penalty was divided between the poor box and repairs for the church.

**1558** – Queen Elizabeth passed another law that was duplicate of her father's. Many more registers began on this date. Many of these early records are hard to read plus being written in Latin and are often very sparse giving only the father's name at christening and only the person's name in a burial entry.

The registers were the property of the incumbent minister and each parish was required to maintain a chest in the parish church for safe keeping of the same. In time other records were kept in the chest such as poor law records, which were the civil parish records. Other records kept in the chest were removal orders, bastardy bonds, overseers of the poor accounts, Tithe award and Maps, Enclosure, Awards and Maps, and Church Wardens Accounts.

**1597** – Registers were to be made of parchment instead of paper, and annual reports of all parish register entries were required to be sent to the appropriate bishop, called Bishop's Transcripts (BT). No doubt the reason we have gaps in some of the early parish registers or they do not exist at all, is that the paper had disintegrated and were not available.

**1837** – Since Civil Registration of

1837 church marriage registers are now kept in duplicate, the incumbent sending each quarter a copy of all marriage entries to district superintendent registrar, who sends it to the Registrar General, together with records of births, marriages and deaths he has collected through his secular registrars. When the marriage registers are filed, one copy is retained in the parish and the other goes to the secular registrar. ([www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), wiki)

### **5 Ways to Research Your Italian Heritage Without Leaving Home**

FamilySearch is the largest source of online records for Italian genealogical research. Explore the Italy research page to find records of births, marriages and deaths, Catholic Church records, censuses, military conscriptions, and more. You will need to know your family's ancestral town to search many of these records as only some collections are indexed and searchable by name.

### **Italian Passenger List Indexes this portal also includes contact information and collection and indexed**

Over four million Italians entered the U.S. between 1880-1930. Both US and Canada records and family knowledge are essential in revealing what is arguably the most important piece in progressing with your Italian genealogy quest: your ancestor's town of birth. Italian records are kept at the local level, so this elusive detail is necessary for locating ancestors prior to their immigration to North America.

Though your research will undoubtedly take you to many libraries, archives, and record repositories, the following resources will help you discover generations of Italian ancestors—all without having to leave your home.

This select list of websites will help you search for records of your family and guide you in locating Italian repositories where records are stored.

FamilySearch is the largest source of online records for Italian genealogical research. Explore the Italy research page to find records of births, marriages, deaths, Catholic Church records, censuses, military conscriptions, and more.

If you aren't ready to research Italian records, FamilySearch also provides access to a range of records in North America, including censuses, passenger lists, vital record indexes, and many others. See tips for Italian genealogical research in FamilySearch Wiki and the Learning Center.

#### **Italian Passenger List Indexes**

The National Archives provides access to the Italians to America Passenger Data File, 1855-1900. This collection is an index of over 800,000 passengers to the U.S., who identified their country of origin as Italy or an Italian region. Records may include each passenger's name, age, town of last residence, destination, sex, occupation, literacy, and country of origin, among other details. This data is also available through Steve Morse's One Step website.

#### **Portale Antenati**

The Portale Antenati (The Ancestors Portal) offers access to records held in the State Archives throughout Italy, including civil registration documents and military records. Though some State Archives records have yet to be digitized and indexed, this portal also includes contact information and collection details for each archive.

#### **Comuni-Italiani**

Comuni-Italiani provides information and statistics on Italy's regions, provinces, and

municipalities, and is a useful tool for locating Town Archives throughout Italy. Because Italian towns and parishes created nearly all genealogically useful records, your research will most likely lead you to the Town Vital Records Office for the community where your ancestors lived.

Use Comuni-Italiani to find the contact information of municipal offices throughout Italy. This resource provides a list of all towns in each province and may assist you in locating ancestral towns for your family.

#### **Italian Catholic Church Directories**

Church records can be immensely helpful in your Italian genealogy research. Unlike civil records, church records were recorded systematically and uninterrupted since the 1500's.

With knowledge of your family's ancestral town, you may search for town parishes through ChiesaCattolica.it, the website of the Italian Catholic Church. The parish search engine, Parrocchie.it can also be used to locate churches throughout Italy. While these directories only provide information on active parishes, records of churches that are no longer in use they might have been transferred to a nearby church, such as the town's Mother Church or cathedral. (By Megan Margino see [www.history@nypl.org](mailto:www.history@nypl.org))

#### **Other Danger Zones Mistaken Identity**

A particularly difficult problem can arise during your research when two or more identically named people of roughly the same age have lived jointly in one locale.

You can also find people with the same name in the same family, such as mother's and daughters. Often, they are not related to each other, making it crucial that the genealogist not confuse them

As with other genealogical problems, you will have to use multiple sources and records to determine which identically named individual is the one you are seeking and whether the other individuals bear any relationship to you. One suggestion is to extensively explore land and probate records to determine places of residence and other distinguishing information. In any event, be aware that some of the records you come across may contain inaccuracies, so obtain as much information as you can.

### **Mistaken Identity: Part 2**

One mistake some genealogical researchers often make is to assume relationships between people with similar or identical surnames. Although this is very tempting, making such a mistake could seriously divert your exploration.

Instead, where it seems appropriate, use identical or similar surnames to guide some of your research, but do not conclusively add anyone to your family tree without verifying their relationship from reliable records.

### **Conflicting Records**

You probably know that you can find information such as birth dates, marriage dates, maiden names, and so on in more than one place. This is great, because that gives you several options when you're doing your research.

However, what do you do when you find conflicting information? For example, what if you find one birth date for an individual on a marriage certificate and a different birth date for that individual on a death certificate?

Of course, the best thing to do is to check a few more records. Hopefully, more records will help you determine which is the actual date. Another answer is to put more faith in the record that was created closer to the event or was created by the individual himself. For

example, a birth date on a birth record is more likely to be accurate because it was created at the time of the event. A birth date on a marriage certificate has a good chance of being accurate because the individual probably wrote his own birth date. A birth date on a death certificate has smaller chances of being accurate: first, it was created several years after the actual birth, and second someone other than the individual had to have provided the birth date on the death certificate.

### **Inaccurate Previous Research**

Needless to say, obtaining a pedigree from a book or other source could greatly speed your genealogical exploration. Indeed, an accurate pedigree can be a valuable tool for filling in holes in your research.

Unfortunately, a few of the pedigrees you come across may be false. In some cases, the researcher compiling the pedigree may have distorted information in order to prove descent from a certain famous or noble person to cover up a relationship to someone undesirable. In other cases, the researcher might have inferred, rather than provided, one or more of the familial relationships. As a result, the pedigree may diverge at some point to include people who are unrelated to you.

Since fraudulent pedigrees pose a strong risk for side-tracking your research, it is very important that you take all steps possible to verify the accuracy of any pedigree you acquire. Particularly, be sure that all the information in the pedigree conforms to what you have discovered in your prior research. If there are any discrepancies, do what you can to ascertain the truth. Finally, it might be a good idea to learn what you can about the reputation of the individual who compiled the pedigree.



### **Tall Tales**

Family tradition is another potential source of erroneous genealogical information. Frequently, such tradition holds that the family is descended from some particularly noteworthy or interesting ancestor, such as a high noble in England or a French Huguenot who fled persecution. In many of these cases, the family may not have any roots in the supposed ancestors home country. Similar inaccuracies may also surround the history of the family surname and the deeds of various ancestors.

Once again, using a variety of sources to piece together the family tree is crucial for ensuring accuracy. Although family traditions may serve as useful clues for directing your search, they should not be taken at face value.

### **Impossibly Close Dates**

As you do your genealogical research, you may come across dates that don't seem to make sense. For example, children that were born too close together or a marriage date that comes after someone's death date. Your first conclusion may be that the dates are incorrect. This may be the case, and the best way to determine this is to look at other records for verification.

If the dates were recorded before 1752, another answer is that the dates were recorded using the Julian calendar. With the Julian calendar, the first day of the year was March 25<sup>th</sup> and the last day of the year was March 24<sup>th</sup>. This means that dates such as July 10, 1507 and October 15, 1507 came before dates such as January 1, 1507 and February 28, 1507. ([www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com))

### **Researching Genealogy in Russia**

#### **Start at Home**

Start with home and family sources to identify the immigrant's name and his/her town or village origin.

Ask them plenty of questions and be sure to always ask where key events took place.

In addition to any available family resources, you'll need to check all accessible North American records (US/Canada) records you can find before moving onto research across the ocean.

Some key US and Canadian resources to investigate for clues to the town or village your immigrant ancestor came from: censuses, immigration and naturalization records; birth, marriage and death records; military draft and service records; cemetery burial cards; tombstone inscriptions; and obituaries.

### **Important to Know the Names**

To successfully do genealogy research on the other side of the world, you'll need to know your immigrant ancestor's original name. Many immigrants changed their names once arriving in the US and later often changed them back when it was safe to do so. Some chose a similar-sounding name, anglicized it or made the spelling more American.

If your ancestors came from families from the former Soviet Union or Russian Empire (Russians, Belarusians and Ukrainians), their names would be transliterated from the Cyrillic to the Roman alphabet. Russian names spelled in Cyrillic letters have various and sometimes peculiar versions when spelt in French, German or English. For example, the letter V easily becomes W or FF. One resource to check is the online Dictionary of Period Russian Names.

Consider Russian naming customs, too, as Jonathan D. Shea and William F. Hoffman advise in their book *Following the Paper Trail: A Multilingual Translation Guide*: Generally, Moscow has forced even non-Russians under its control to comply with Russian customs regarding names. Each

person has a given name, a patronymic and a surname. The patronymic usually ends in -ovich for men or -ovna for women. You'll need to return to original root names to track your ancestors down to be able to find them.

### **Creating a Research Plan**

When you're ready to cross the ocean, avoid jumping right back in without some preparation. You should first create a research plan that outlines the "who, what, when, where and why" outlining specifically what you wish to accomplish.

There are many helpful resources online and on microfilm: the Russians to America Passenger Data File, 1834-1897, available via the National Archives and Records Administration's (NARA) Access to Archival Databases, and Records of Former Russian Agencies (otherwise known as Russian Consular Records) held by NARA. See Record Group M-1485 for the United States and M-1742 for Canada. An index to the records is The Russian Consular Records index and catalog.

Remember as you begin your search for Russian ancestors, you'll apply the basic principles of genealogy as in any country of research. ([www.familytree.com](http://www.familytree.com))

### **Russian Genealogy Online Databases and Websites (Found at FamilySearch.org)**

- 1721-1939—Russia, Tatarstan Church Books
- 1753-1925—Church Records from Belgorod and village records in Kozlov (Michurinsk) various uezdz of Voronezh and Kursk gubernias
- 1779-1923—Russia Samara Church Books (Index and images)
- 1901-1905, 1907-1909—Church books for the town of Kozlov (Michurinsk)

- Various Church books from Latvian, Estonian, St Petersburg, and the Russian State Historical Archives.
- Metrical Book Inventory—Russian Ukrainian and Belorussian Archives.

### **Russian Orthodox Church Records**

The keeping of metrical books was mandated by a 1722 decree of Peter the Great. Format of three parts, christenings, marriages, deaths, was established in 1724, a printed format in 1806, and in 1838 a format that prevailed until the revolution. The consistory copy was considered official record. A Russian diocese—eparkia was coterminous with a Russian state—guberniya. The registers of each, the level parish—prikhod in a country—uyezd—were commonly filed together for a single year

Confession lists are often interfiled with parish registers. Each Orthodox Christian was to confess and partake of the sacrament at least once a year. The principal time for confession was Lent. Children of both sexes in obligatory fashion were taken to confession, beginning from their seventh year. The form of confession lists was established in 1737: the sequential number of the household, surname, given names of all the children at least a year old, sex, ages, and whether, or not the person attended confession, and if not why, (rarely noted).

### **Roman Catholic Church Records**

Russia mandated the keeping of Roman Catholic registers in 1826. Three copies made, the third for the deanery – dekanat, the level between the diocese and the parish. Besides Russian Poland, there were 5 dioceses in 1900: Tiraspol (located in Saratov), Zhytomyr, Mogilev, Vilnius, Kaunus.

### **Lutheran (Evangelical) Church Records**

In 1832 Russia mandated keeping these records. Aside from Russian Poland, there were 8 diocesan offices, one in St Petersburg, one in Moscow, and six in the Baltic States. The registers were kept in German, until the law of 1891 required that they be kept in Russian. Before the Russian revolution of 1917, there were 32 Ingrian parishes in St Petersburg and the surrounding area founded in the beginning of 1600.

The priests came from Finland and Sweden. The books were written in Finnish, Swedish and German. The transcripts in St Petersburg for 1832-1885 have been microfilmed.

**1833-1885 Russia Lutheran Church Book Duplicates, 1833-1885—**  
index and images.

### **Old Believer Church Records**

Dissenters from Orthodoxy who refused to accept alterations of religious rituals and

prayers. Civilian reg's of birth & marriage by police mandated in 1874 for those who were born into Old Believer families. One copy was made and kept in the provincial administration— gubernskoye pravleniye.

### **Baptist Church Records**

Civil registration was mandated in 1879. Two copies, one in the provincial administration and the other in the regional police headquarters -uezdnoye politseiskoye upravleniye. No Baptist Church records are known to exist for Volhynia or other parts of modern-day Ukraine, formerly part of Russia. Some limited Baptist Records for Russian Poland have been found as indicated on the SGGEE website. (See website [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org), wiki)

### **Genealogy Humor**

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

There is no king who has not had a slave among his ancestors, and no slave who has not had a king among us. --Helen Keller

We inherit from our ancestors' gifts so often taken for granted. Each of us contains within this inheritance of soul. We are links between the ages, containing past and present expectations, sacred memories and future promise. --Edward Sellner

If you don't know history,  
you don't know anything,  
you are a leaf that doesn't  
know that it is part of a  
tree –Michael Crichton

To forget one's ancestors  
is to be a brook without a  
source, a tree without a  
root –a Chinese Proverb

The thing that interests me  
most about family history  
is the gap between the  
things we think we know  
about our families and the  
realities. –Jeremy Hardy

Some family trees have  
beautiful leaves, and some  
have just a bunch of nuts  
from all his ancestors that  
make the tree worth  
shaking. –Unknown

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

Why waste your money  
looking up your family  
tree? Just go into politics  
and your opponent will do  
it for you. –Mark Twain

### **AGS GenFair,**

**Date:** April 25, 2020

**Held:** Wetaskiwin

**Theme:** "Celebrating  
Past, Present and the  
Future"

**Subtitle:** "Join Us in  
Celebrating  
"Wetaskiwin Branch's  
20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary"

**Branch Website:**

See AGS page to  
see: Speakers, bios,  
and presentations.

**Displays:** Contact  
Lee Koop at  
[leekoop@xplornet.com](mailto:leekoop@xplornet.com)  
or phone him at 780  
352-9929

**Reg Forms:** Will be  
online by middle of  
January 2020

### **Pre-registration**

**Required:** Numbers  
are needed for our  
caterers who are  
preparing our lunch.

**No Walk-ins.**

### **NGS Family History Conference**

**Held** May 20-23 2020

**Early Bird Reg: \$215  
(member), \$250  
(non-member).**

Prices after March  
17/2020. After April  
17/2020 you must  
register in person at  
the Salt Palace

**Registrar:** Courtney  
Holmes

[registration@ngsgenealogy.org](mailto:registration@ngsgenealogy.org)

**Theme:** Echoes of  
our Ancestors

**Held:** Salt Lake City

**Lectures:** 150

**Reg Opens:**

December 2/2019

### **Scottish SIG/Ontario Ancestors**

**(Ontario Genealogical  
Society)**

**DATE:** June 5-7, 2020

**TIME:** 9:00--9:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Hamilton  
Convention Centre

**Ontario Website:**

[www.fhs.ogs.on.ca](http://www.fhs.ogs.on.ca)

**THEME:** Finding the  
Past Moving into the  
Future