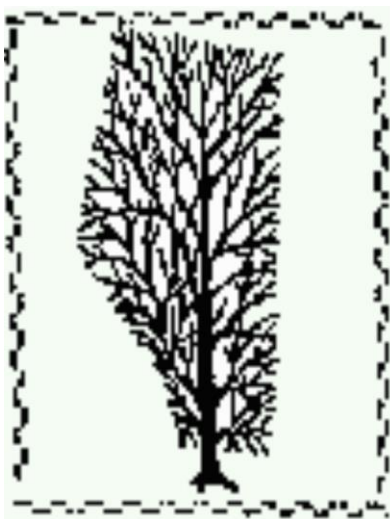


**YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS**  
**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
**Lethbridge and District Branch**  
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## Editor's Corner



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](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 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 – 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 is \$25.00 (includes RS).

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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| Treasurer      | Pat Barry      |
| Secretary      | Julie Miller   |
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## President's Message

Here we are still in midst of the Covid-19 pandemic with case numbers in Alberta and our part of the province much higher than in the spring. Due to the pandemic, our branch meetings are being held via videoconferencing and I appreciate the effort members are making to participate. I recognize this is very, difficult for some in rural areas or with older computers. Our Monday Legacy group has again suspended meetings after several in person gatherings this fall with appropriate safety measures in place.

Our branch volunteers continue to collect and digitize obituary notices and funeral cards, update cemetery records and answer research queries. Our Facebook group now has 86 members including AGS members from other branches as well as our own and members of the general public. There are a number, of our members who have participated in the new AGS webinars. As participation in branch meetings and activities is an important component of social and community involvement for many of our members, I think we are all eagerly awaiting the time when we can meet as we are accustomed to doing.

Now is a time to hold true to the course, to stay safe and stay in touch by whatever means are available to us with family, friends and fellow researchers. It can also be a time to expand our knowledge by taking part in new online groups or webinars and learning new skills that will improve our research efforts.

As this is our last newsletter for 2020, I will send you best wishes for Christmas and the New Year. Let us be optimistic that life will improve in 2021.

Marilyn Astle, Lethbridge Branch AGS president

### Monthly Meetings

In September for our monthly meeting Susan Haga, our editor gave a virtual presentation on Reading Old Handwriting. She had planned to give it in person, but we felt as a Branch that it was not safe to do so yet. We cancelled our Annual International Dinner in October due to the pandemic.

For our November meeting this month a virtual meeting was held where members of our Branch discussed what they had been doing during the pandemic. Our AGS Provincial Board meeting will be Saturday, November 28<sup>th</sup> and it will be virtual as it has been since the pandemic began.

### Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

Lethbridge Family History Center has been closed since mid-March due to the pandemic situation.

### Message from the Editor

Our life has changed drastically since we last met and oh how all our lives have been impacted. As we

move on and try to accept our “new normal!” I would like us to try and focus on how grateful we all are for the blessings we have in our lives presently such as the blessings of technology allowing us to have virtual meetings, virtual presentations and online genealogy access to continue our research and genealogy courses that we can take online.

Take advantage of the webinars offered by AGS Provincial. Looking forward to better times ahead but for now we have the advantage of meeting with one another online. Respectfully, Susan Haga—Editor

### **Note from the Editor**

I would like to offer any of you who would like to write about their genealogical finds and experiences to share with us in this newsletter that would be great. Send your write-ups to [footprints14@gmail.com](mailto:footprints14@gmail.com).

## **Climbing Over Our Brick Walls**

### **1. Ancestor--They Are Not Where You Think They Should Be**

- Learn as much as you can about your families.
- Be willing to be open minded.
- Create a personal timeline of your family based on events in their lives and see what records are available in a specific place and time period.
- Familiarize yourself with where they lived by using maps and gazetteers.
- Analyze your pedigree chart does your research make sense could a woman born in 1850 give birth to a child in 1860.
- Perhaps the family changed their name when they came over here from their parent country to protect themselves in times of war and political or religious persecution.

### **2. When Availability of Records is Limited or Appears Unavailable**

- Its harder to find records in some parts of the world than others.
- So be creative—check other resources that you have not checked before other than ancestry.com and familysearch.org.
- Check local libraries—university libraries—provincial/national archives. Also seek out genealogical or historical societies (by their website or by phone) where your ancestor may have lived.

**3. Analyze Your Family Pedigree Chart or Family Group Sheets.** Notice the names often used in your family especially those that are a little unusual that may help you to know if you have the right person or not. This may give you a clue to what your original family names may have been for e.g. parents or grandparents. A friend of mine found out after researching for years for a grandmother of hers that she had been researching the wrong woman!

Occupations--Check out their occupations as often trades were often passed down from father to son. Farmers sons often inherited their parents land and became farmers as well, also Bakers sons usually became bakers, not doctors or lawyers etc.

### **4. Verify If Your Information Is Even Correct?**

- Check your sources and dates making sure that their marriage date is after their birth dates not before.
- Check birth, marriage and death records. Birth records includes names of both the parents whereas marriage records usually include father’s names. Birth and marriage records are considered primary, but death records can only be primary if the informant was close to the family otherwise, they are considered secondary records.

### **5. How to Obtain Information from Unwilling Relatives?**

- Always be willing to share what you found on their ancestral line first and see if they would be willing to share their research. Be sensitive to their feelings. Sometimes people are concerned about what you plan on doing with their information. Be willing to accept whatever they are willing to give you or perhaps nothing at all. Maybe they will reconsider later on to share their information with you.

### **6. Always Use More Than One Source**

- To be sure if a person really belongs to your family you need to use more than one source to prove who they belong to. Half of genealogy is thinking about what you have found so far. Most important check every source that you can get your hands on and leave no stone unturned.

### **7. Sometimes Records Have Been Destroyed—So What Do I Do Then?**

- Some of you may have ancestors who came from Ireland as I have where some of the records were destroyed by fire and some records were shredded during the Second World War because of the shortage of paper.
- A lot of church records were destroyed as were census records. So then search for town and county records, court records, tax records, voting records and many more.
- Court records include any type of dealings between varying parties, even poor people were listed in court records (guardianship records, legal disputes).
- Newspapers were often great gossip columns making them a gold mine to genealogists. They also provided births, christenings, marriages and burial and funeral notices.
- Tax records—There were many types of tax records, especially in England. The earliest national taxes were called “lay subsidies”. Other taxes followed such as the poll tax, between 1660 and 1668 and of course the hearth and the window tax.

### **8. How Do I Find My Ancestors Who Moved from One Place to Another?**

--Make a historical timeline of the areas where your family lived. (Why did they move from Ireland?)

--Gazetteers can show changes in a locality that may have precipitated moves or altered the family situation (for e.g. flood in High River, some had to leave the area while others stayed and repaired their homes).

--Church Records—See if communities or churches kept records of move-ins and move-outs as the Scandinavians did. Some parishes require a certificate before people relocated or the minister just kept track of where his flock went.

--Nationality—Be aware of what their nationality was as sometimes people would return to their homeland and sometimes, they would return to North America years later perhaps with other family members. Remember check immigration and naturalization records (see Collections Canada). Remember that people seldom travelled alone.

### **9. How Do You Know If Your Family Stories and Traditions Are True?**

--Let your family traditions serve as guides to searches but not be accepted as 100% truth. (Rule of thumb it is called the 80/20 rule—80% stories have 20% truth in them.)

--Seek proof not word of mouth. Also be careful of ancestral trees on ancestry.com unless they are backed up by sources. Sources are everything in research.

### **10. How Do You Find the Maiden Names of the Women in My Pedigree?**

--The females in our family lines are the most challenging part of our genealogical research.

--There were long periods of time where women were simply not recorded (even in the Bible!)

--Women's lives were not as prominent as the men in their lives. Therefore, you will have to look at the records of the men in family first.

Places to look to find maiden names:

--Christening/Birth records—will often provide at least the woman's first name. (In some countries, the women never took married names on so you may find their full names there).

--Married records—both the mother's marriage and sometimes her children's marriage will show the mother's maiden names.

--Wills and Probate—if the woman outlives her husband, she will most likely be mentioned in the will along with the other relatives. Some of the other female relatives may have their maiden names mentioned in there as well.

--Death records—Sometimes women were buried using their maiden name as well as their married name. When registration began more information was provided, including her parent's names.

--Obituaries of course are loaded with oodles of genealogical information. You can learn who the relatives were, where they came from and who they might have married. (Compiled by Susan Haga)

### **HISTORICAL TIMELINES**

Timelines can assist us in knowing where our ancestors were living in a particular time period and give us clues as where to search for them. We can then check out what resources are available in that time period and places to search for family members. This will help to fill in the gaps on our pedigree chart.

Comparing our family's personal timelines (for e.g. where they were born, married, resided and died) with historical timelines can bring important insights and add interest to our family's history. Local National and world events may have had an impact on their lives encouraging them to move on or to remain in the same area such as with the Irish Potato famine 1845-1847.

#### **Timelines Will Help**

1. Get new ideas for different records as we compare where they were living at a certain time.
2. In locating their records, you will find your ancestors in a particular town, county or province.
3. It will assist you in locating ancestors who appear to be missing.
4. Gain significant insight into the life of your ancestors by learning about the times and places in which they lived.

It is important to learn about the history of the area where our ancestors lived. Why did they move, when did they move, and what encouraged them to stay where they were? Keep a history reference binder on places your ancestors lived and where to search for their records. What institutions were in the area such as churches, schools, cemeteries--and when did they cease to exist? Names of streets and towns changed as well as county borders moved. Check in gazetteers to help with this. Gazetteers are very-helpful reference books. Many of these resources are online and can be found at public libraries, archives and family history centers.

Keep a copy of your timeline with you when you go and do research and make a habit of updating your timeline whenever you learn new information about your family. You can keep a copy of it on your computer.

#### **Trace Your Ancestors**

Track where your family went and resided by consulting the passenger lists, naturalization records, census records, voting lists and local history books.

People did not always attend their preferred church but rather would attend the nearest church where they were living. But check on census records to learn what religion they were.

### **Try Different Resource Repositories**

Check in provincial and national archives in the countries where your ancestors came from or even in different parts of Canada such as the Maritimes especially if you were raised there. Check local family history centers, genealogical societies (see their websites which are listed on Familysearch.org), public libraries and university libraries. Check out [www.familysearch.org/wiki](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki) for research help. They offer workshops and webinars for different countries.

### **Learn About Different Migration Patterns**

Migration patterns allow you to expand your perspective so you will spot things of significance that you might otherwise miss, and you will gather more proof from resources you research. One important observation is that men tend to marry young women on the opposite side of the river from where they reside—recording marriages in counties you would not usually search. This is especially true where the river is the boundary line.

### **3 Factors for Success**

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

#### **Correct Name**

Search for all variations of the name even if the surname is spelt differently than expected, do not discard it as a possibility. Search for all possible nicknames Molly, Polly and over 100 other variants are nicknames for Mary. Make sure when you find your ancestor that she is indeed your ancestor and not another woman living in the same area with the same name. Be sure that you have more than one identifying factor indicating that she is your ancestor.

#### **Correct Time Period**

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

#### **Correct Locality**

The city/town/township belongs in the first field of the locality in genealogy software programs or on familysearch.org trees. This is followed by the county, then by the prov/state, and then the country. Make sure you are looking for right town name or is it the county? For e.g. in Ontario they have some counties with the same name as some of their towns.

### **Historical and Personal Timeline Websites**

This provides you with a list of all the locations in your genealogy database that might be in error. Either they are miss spelled or the county did not exist at the time of the event.

Create a Personal Timeline with Historical Events Inserted <http://www.ourtimelines.com>

Historical Timelines  
<http://www.timelineindex.com/content/view/1993>

History through Timelines  
<http://www.historymole.com>

About.com Timelines  
<http://history1900s.about.com/od/timelines/tp/1950timeline.htm>

Internet4Classrooms.com  
<http://www.internet4classrooms.com/timelines.htm>

Wikipedia Timelines  
<http://en.wikipedia.org>, <http://timelines.com/>  
<http://timelineindex.com/content/home.php>

UK Timelines  
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/interactive/timelines/>  
(Compiled by Susan Haga)

### **Various Home Source Records**

Home sources are really the first place we begin when we are starting to research our family history. If you are encountering some brick walls in your research it might be time to re-look at some of your home sources to see what clues, they can give you. This is a great list of many different home sources some you may have never considered checking out before.

#### **Personal Records**

Journal/Diary  
Biography  
Letters  
Photographs  
Autograph Album  
Personal Knowledge  
Baby Book  
Wedding album  
Scrapbooks  
Funeral/Memorial Book  
Guest Registrar  
Travel Account/Log  
Bookplates

#### **Certificates**

Birth, Marriage, Death  
Divorce/Separation  
Adoption  
Graduation  
Christening/Blessing  
Baptism/Confirmation  
Ordination  
Ministerial/Missionary  
Membership

Apprenticeship  
Achievements/Awards

**Family Records**

Family Bibles  
Book of Remembrances  
Pedigree Charts/Family Group Sheets  
Genealogies  
Family Bulletins/Letters  
Family Histories/Local Histories  
Manuscript Histories  
Family Traditions  
Letters/Postcards

**Announcements**

Wedding, Birth, Death  
Funeral/Burial  
Graduation  
Divorce  
Anniversary  
Memorial Cards  
New Job/Promotion  
Travel  
New Home  
Birthday Celebration  
Professional  
Engagement

**Legal Papers**

Wills  
Deeds  
Land Grants  
Water rights  
Mortgages  
Leases  
Bonds  
Loans  
Contracts  
Summons/Subpoenas  
Tax Notices  
Guardian Papers  
Abstract of Title  
Adoption Papers

**Military Records**

Military Service  
Pension  
Disability  
Discharge  
National Guard  
Selective Service  
Bounty Award  
Service Medals  
Ribbons/Sword  
Firearms  
Uniform  
Citation  
Separation papers  
War registers/Memorials

**Membership Records**

Member ID Cards  
Publications  
Programs  
Awards

**Health Records**

X-rays  
Insurance reports  
Hospital/ Medical Records  
Immunizations

**School Records**

Diplomas/Transcripts  
Report Cards  
Awards  
Honor Roll  
Yearbooks/Publications  
Alumni Lists/Frats/Sororities

**Citizenship Papers**

Naturalization  
Denegation/Denials  
Alien Registration  
Permanent Resident Cards  
Department  
Passport  
Visa  
Vaccination

**Newspaper Clippings**

Announcements  
Obituaries  
Special Events  
Vital Statistics  
Home-Town Newspapers  
Professional/Trade  
Human Interest

**Licenses**

Business  
Occupation  
Professional  
Hunting  
Firearms  
Drivers  
Motor Vehicle Registration

**Employment Records**

Apprenticeship  
Graduation/Awards  
Citations  
Severance papers  
Social Insurance/Social Security  
Retirement papers  
Pension  
Union  
Professional Associations  
Income Tax

## Financial Records

Accounts  
Receipts  
Bills  
Check Stubs  
Estate Records  
Wills  
Letters of Administration

## Household Items

Silverware  
Needlework  
Sampler  
Tapestries  
Dishes  
Friendship Quilt  
Family History Quilt  
Coat of Arms  
Insignias  
Souvenirs  
Clothing  
Tools  
Plaques  
Engraved Jewelry

## Books

Atlases  
Yearbooks  
Test books  
Reading books (may have notations)  
Cook-books  
Recipe card indexes  
Phone books  
Prizes  
Treasured Volumes  
Vocational  
Foreign Language  
Inscriptions  
Bibles  
Journals  
Baby book

## Other

Computers/Laptops  
Cell phones  
(Compiled by Susan Haga)

## Understanding English Research

You may all have searched censuses, civil registration and church records where else can you search? Some of the places we can look are: Parish Chest Records, Poor Law Records, Court Records, Manorial Records, Wills and Probates, Newspapers and Military Records, Guild and Apprenticeship Records, Coats of Arms, Heraldic Visitations, Memorials, Tombstone and Cemetery Records, Boyd's and Pallot's Indexes, Biographies, Family Histories, Local Histories, Emigration and Ships List and many more.

## A Class-Based Society

What additional sources are available to us, often depends on the class of the ancestor we are seeking.

### There were 3 classes.

Nobility: Dukes, Earls, Barons etc.  
Middle Classes: Landed Gentry, Yeoman, Merchants, Businessmen  
Lower Classes: Everyone else!

## The Nobility

The most reliable source for men who held peerages and was compiled by the meticulous genealogist George Edward Cockayne. It includes every peer's birth, parents, marriage, death, burial, probate, honors and offices but nothing about ancestors or descendants who did not have the title.

*The Complete Peerage* is available online. The FamilySearch Research Wiki has a link to it. Places to look for further information on the aristocracy include *Burke's Peerage*, *Debrett's Peerage*, *Cracroft's Peerage*, *Collin's Peerage of England*

Any of them will give you information about the present duke, earl or baron, listed by his family name, as well as the history of his title and his ancestors. All of these are available online.

## **Heraldry (The Design, Use, Regulation and Recording of Coats of Arms)**

Coats of Arms were originally emblazoned on a knight's shield as a way of identifying him in battle. They became symbols of his title and property rights. They were hereditary and passed to the eldest son. A record of who legitimately held them was kept by The College of Arms.

Younger children might be granted variations of the family coat of arms. If both husband and wife had coats of arms, the shield was divided with the husbands on the right and the wives on the left. This can be valuable in determining family origins.

## Heraldic Visitations

Between 1530 and 1688 the Kings of Arms sent heralds to regulate and register the coats of arms of the nobility, the gentry and others. This was necessary to establish the right to a coat of arms and the associated title and property rights, which had been the subject of abuse before 1530.

Often, a herald would be shown an elaborate family pedigree chart to prove a person's right to the coat of arms. They provide much information for genealogists, but should be treated with care, as many of them were falsified. The website [Some Notes on English Medieval Genealogy](#) maintains an extensive lists of digitized visitations.



### **Domesday Book**

In 1085 William the Conqueror commissioned a survey of all lands and property and their owners in his realm. His officers' decisions on who owned what were final and irrevocable. It covered much of England and parts of Wales. The survey was completed in 1086 and was subsequently compiled into what we know as the Domesday Book. The name is middle English for 'Dooms day' i.e. The day of reckoning. The manuscript is available online at the National Archives' site. However, note that it is handwritten in mediaeval Latin!

### **School Records**

Until 1871, when basic schooling for all was introduced, education was only for those who could afford it. Initially, the sons of noblemen were privately educated at home. Their daughters only rarely received an education, and, when they did, it was usually from a governess. In the 1500's so-called 'public' and 'grammar' schools were set up for the sons of the nobility and gentry. Girls schools did not begin until after 1800.

### **Commoner Lists**

Records were kept of commoners who had attained some status beyond that of general laborer or artisan. Some were granted crests by the College of Heraldry.

### **Memorials**

Memorials of many kinds may provide good information on your family members. They may be for a single person, a family or a group of people. Such memorials may commemorate a loved one, his immediate family members, and local aristocrat a vicar of the local church, or the victims of war or disaster. You can find such memorials in churches, attached to buildings, in gardens, on park benches and, of course, as war memorials and headstones in cemeteries. Many are now pictured online.

### **Church Gazetteers**

Gazetteers giving the history of old churches can sometimes contain useful information for genealogists. Here is an example: After describing the Church, the gazetteer adds this: 'In the chancel there is a marble monument bearing the inscription: 'Near this place rests the body of William Chapman, late of this parish, Gent, who had issue, seven sons and four daughters, viz. by his wife, Mary (daughter of Capt. R. Bold of Theddlethorpe), four sons and one daughter viz. William, Joseph, Richard, John and Mary, by his wife, Elizabeth (daughter of John Hussey of Ashby, clerk) three sons and three daughters viz. Hussey, Thomas James, Sarah, Elizabeth and Susan. He lived to have 44 grandchildren and died on 21<sup>st</sup> day of April 1708.'

### **Occupation Lists**

Lists of the occupations of local inhabitants were often published so that people knew who to go to for particular services, and especially to protect the interests of incumbent practitioners against upstart newcomers.

### **Manorial Records**

The manor was effectively the local government in feudal England. The *court baron*, which met every 3 to 4 weeks, dealt with the day to day running of the manor and would report the deaths of tenants, the admission of their heirs, payments for the marriages of daughters of customary tenants, the remarriage of widows, as well as any involvement of tenants in manorial court proceedings (as jurors, witnesses, accused etc.)

### **Court Records**

The courts dealt not just with criminal proceedings, but with taxation matters, land transactions, wills and probate, inheritance and disputes of all kinds. The minutes of court proceedings can provide valuable information for family historians, going back well before the start of church records in 1558. Many of these minutes are available at FamilySearch.org and Ancestry.com as well as other Internet sites.

### **Wills**

Wills are an invaluable source for family historians. Not only do they give details of the subject of the will, and his or her life, but many other people will be mentioned in them, including those to whom bequests are made, who are often members of the family, as well as those who are designated to be the executors.

### **Land Transfers**

On the death of a landowner or tenant, or in the event of a parcel of land being sold or sequestered, the new owner or tenant needed to have his claim to the property ratified by the courts.

Valuable information about individuals and their relationship to the previous owner or tenant and the details of any rival claimants would be included in the minutes of the court proceedings.

### **Criminal Records**

In England, crimes were tried in different courts, usually depending on the severity of the crime.

Felonies went to the assize courts, or their equivalent for London, Old Bailey. Individuals who committed misdemeanors and some felonies were tried in quarter sessions, or their equivalent for boroughs, borough sessions. Lesser crimes were adjudicated in petty sessions.



Few of these records are indexed or available online, a notable exception being those of the Old Bailey.

For further information on the courts and links to other sites, see the FamilySearch Research Wiki.

### **Licences**

These were required for the exercise of any business. They were granted by the courts and were usually of limited duration. They will contain details of the applicant or licence holder and these details will appear in the minutes of the court proceedings

### **Taxation papers**

Both the church and the state levied taxes on the population. At various times these included tithing, land tax, hearth tax and window tax, and numerous taxes on property, such as houses, land, horses and farm animals, not to mention the poll tax and income tax.

Tax assessments and payment receipts can be useful sources of information on the person taxed.

### **Emigration and Ship's Lists**

People emigrated for many reasons including to escape religious or political persecution, to take advantage of opportunities in the colonies or other lands, and simply because of poverty and the chance of a better life. Many ship's lists and emigration lists are available. They give the names of passengers, their ages and where they came from. Ancestry.com has passenger lists 1890-1960 for those leaving England, as well as crew lists, and an index to the register of passport applications 1851-1903. It also has 'Emigrants in bondage' 1614-1775.

### **Immigration**

If your ancestor came to England from another country, Ancestry.com has passenger lists for those entering the U.K. 1861-1919, as well as 'Alien arrivals' in England 1810-1811 and 1826-1869, and U.K. naturalization certificates and declarations 1870-1916.

### **Military Records**

Military records are available post 1660. From 1757 parish constables were required to record all males aged 18 to 45 to be available for military service.

Official Army Lists date from 1740. There are records for the Army, Navy and Marines. They include Enlistment, Service and Military Pensions records. They may include the man's name, age and residence and details of his service as well as next of kin.

FamilySearch has the war office records 1772-1935 and the FamilySearch Research Wiki has links

to many other sources including for the two world wars. See also The Forces War Records site.

### **Guild Records and Apprenticeships**

Guilds were associations of artisans or merchants, who were granted absolute control of their trade by letters patent from the monarch. In order to exercise a trade, you needed to gain entry to the relevant guild which usually meant demonstrating your mastery of the necessary skills.

Guild apprenticeship, journeyman and master craftsman papers give good information for family historians, and local history books may give lists of guild members.

### **Guild Records include:**

#### **Freedom Admission Registers**

An individual became a freeman upon joining a guild. They could be become a freeman if their father were a member and they had completed their apprenticeship or if they bought admission into the guild. These records would date when an individual was made a freeman.

#### **Apprentice binding books**

These books would list when an apprentice was bound to a master of a particular company.

#### **Alphabetical list of apprentices**

These records were similar, to the lists of Freeman in that they would only cover wide date periods, not a single year or so.

Most records of guilds are not available online, but the Livery Companies Database is available online, listing the contact details for all the London livery companies. The Goldsmiths' Company in London has a guide on its website to researching family members who may have once belonged to the company.

### **Apprenticeships**

There were two classes of apprenticeship.

1. An agreement, usually between a father and a master craftsman, for an apprentice to learn a trade.
2. Forced apprenticeships. Adult vagrants and any child over 7 of a destitute family could be forced into apprenticeship by overseers and church wardens.

Periods of apprenticeship varied. Adult vagrants were bound for 7 years, but children could be apprenticed until age 21. Until 1757 apprentices were bound by indenture.

At first the parish had responsibility for the poor. That is why nearly everyone got baptised – they needed the "insurance" of being able to apply to the church if assistance was ever needed.

In 1834 the government took over that responsibility. Poor Law Unions were set up and workhouses became established. Every Union had to have a workhouse about every ten miles. This, of course, generated more records.

### **Medical Records**

#### **[Historic Hospital Admission Registers Project \(HHARP\)](#)**

This database includes admission records for three London hospitals: The Hospital for Sick children at Great Ormond Street, the Evelina Hospital and the Alexandra Hospital for Children with Hip Disease: 1852-1914.

Vaccination against smallpox was compulsory in England and Wales from 1853 until 1948. A Vaccination Certificate was issued to the parents of each vaccinated child as proof that the vaccination had taken place.

See Ancestry.com for U.K. medical registers 1859-1959

### **The 1939 Register**

The 1939 Register was a list of all inhabitants of the country taken on 29 September 1939. The information was used to produce identity cards and, once rationing was introduced in January 1940, to issue ration books. Information in the Register was also used to administer conscription and the direction of labour, and to monitor and control the movement of the population caused by military mobilisation and mass evacuation. It gives names, addresses and occupations for everyone living in the country at the time.

The register is available on Ancestry and FindMyPast, but you do have to pay a fee to see it.

### **Newspapers**

The first newspaper in England was the Oxford Gazette of 1665.

Newspapers can be a valuable source of family history information. They contain obituaries, notices of births and marriages, as well as court proceedings, all of which give details of individuals and families.

General reports of local and national events may also include valuable information on those involved.

### **Surname books**

If your ancestor had an unusual surname, it is usually local to just one or two areas. Surname books will tell you those areas. They will also list the variations of the name, so if you did not find it in the records, you can try the variations.

Surname books will not help with common names like Baker or Smith which are found everywhere check for less common names in these books.

### **Family Histories**

Published family histories can provide a wealth of information about family members as well as local histories.

### **Where to find records**

Familysearch, Ancestry, Findmypast, and My Heritage are all excellent sources for English records of all types. In addition, look at:

#### **The National Archives**

It has the divorce index, the index to death duty registers 1796-1903, births at sea 1854-1960, marriages at sea 1854-1972, deaths at sea 1781-1968, England and Wales Non-conformist births and baptisms.

Marriages and burials, Society of Friends (Quaker) births and burials 1578-1841, British Royal Marines marriage registers 1813-1920, England clandestine marriages, British Merchant Seamen 1835-1857 & 1918-1941 and Merchant Navy Crew lists 1861-1913, Prison records plus a wealth of Military and Emigration records. The National Archives collaborates with Findmypast, and many of these records are available through it.

#### **Boyd's Indexes**

##### **Boyd's Marriage index**

Excellent coverage of pre-1754 English marriages; includes 135,000+ names from London Diocese marriage licenses, chapel marriages, Huguenot marriages, and Jewish marriages.

##### **Boyd's London burials index 1538-1872**

Index to 243,000 burials in London.

##### **Boyd's Inhabitants of London and Family Units 1200-1946**

A collection of 70,000 handwritten sheets each containing details of London family (mainly 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century). They are found on Findmypast.

#### **Pallot's Indexes**

##### **Pallot's Marriage index 1780-1837**

Includes most London parishes from 1780 to 1837 and many other areas of the country.

##### **Pallot's Baptism index 1780-1837**

Has over 200,000 records for England including London. They are on Ancestry.com

#### **Other useful sources**

##### **Webb's London Marriages**

Includes 50,000 City of London marriages from 1538 to 1837. It is found on Ancestry.com.

##### **Catholic Baptism Index**

Indexes primarily adult baptisms from London and Essex. It is found on FindmyPast.

##### **Catholic Marriage Index**

Indexes marriages from 60 London/Essex parishes 1664 to 1940. It is found on FindmyPast.

### **City of London Burials**

Primarily burials in the nineteenth century. It is found on FindmyPast.

### **Forces War Records**

It is searchable online by name and covers the whole gamut of British wars throughout the centuries.

### **The Family Search Research Wiki**

FamilySearch Research Wiki [www.familysearch.org/wiki](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki) is the best general source of information for research anywhere in the world. Its England page gives you not just a basic research guide and where to find the records, but in-depth articles on each of the record types, including several which I have not mentioned here because of time constraints, such as Jewish records, biographies, periodicals, occupation records, taxation records, school records, voting records and so on. It provides links to maps and gazetteers for England, libraries and archives, societies and background information, such as social life and customs.

It also has a link to Family History Centres and many links to other useful websites.

### **Some Useful Websites**

[www.findmypast.com.uk](http://www.findmypast.com.uk)  
[www.ffhs.org.uk](http://www.ffhs.org.uk)  
[www.freebmd.org.uk](http://www.freebmd.org.uk)  
[www.freereg.org.uk](http://www.freereg.org.uk)  
[www.genesreunited.co.uk](http://www.genesreunited.co.uk)  
[www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)  
[www.genuki.com](http://www.genuki.com)  
[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk)  
[www.ukbmd.org.uk/online\\_parish\\_clerk](http://www.ukbmd.org.uk/online_parish_clerk)  
[www.visionofbritain.org.uk](http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk)  
(Compiled by Celia Tyler, Raymond FHC)

### **Best Scottish Websites**

The National Library of Scotland Newspapers—Paid and Free [www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk) The National Library holds a voluminous collection of newspapers. Some can be viewed online. Others are only available in the reading room.

The National Records of Scotland—Free [www.nrscotland.gov.uk](http://www.nrscotland.gov.uk) Established in 2011, the goal of this organization is to collect and preserve information about Scotland's people's history. You can start your search here with this research guide.

The National Archives of Scotland—Free [www.nas.gov.uk](http://www.nas.gov.uk) The archives, located in three buildings in central Edinburgh includes the General Register House, the New Register House and the West Register House. You can visit the search rooms at the General Register House, but you can

also search them remotely. Court, government, and local authority records are held in this repository.

The National Library of Scotland—Paid [www.www.nls.uk](http://www.www.nls.uk) The National Library of Scotland is much like a research vortex. Its chock-full of every resource imaginable. The eResources alone will keep you busy for hours. Right now, they are featuring Electronic Enlightenment an online collection of over 70,000 letters and correspondence from 1609-1900.

The National library of Scotland Maps—Free [www.maps.nls.uk](http://www.maps.nls.uk) Maps are important resource for the genealogist. They offer insight to the place your ancestors came from. You can use them to identify the places that surrounded their lives and identify people who may have been in their lives (family associates and neighbors).

Scotland's People—Paid  
(National Records of Scotland)—Paid  
Searches will reap an endless array of census, church, court, valuation and vital records. Some previews are free. Purchase credits to view and download certificates and images.

The Scottish Genealogy Society—Paid and Free [www.scotsgenealogy.com](http://www.scotsgenealogy.com) Once you see the many wonders held in their library you are going to want to join. They have a Family History Index and will photocopy them for free. The Association of Scottish Genealogists and Researchers in Archives (ASGRA) certifies professional genealogists in Scotland, the Scottish Record Society

Scotland's Land and Property Registers—Free [www.ros.gov.uk](http://www.ros.gov.uk) This is your resource for land registers. When you visit this site, you will find 20 public registers including the Land Register of Scotland and the General Register of Sasines, which is the "oldest public land register in the world." There are registers for landlords, judgments, letting agents, deeds, protests, sheriff's commissions and crown grants.

Findmypast.com—Paid and Free [www.findmypast.com/](http://www.findmypast.com/) You may be more familiar with this site. Your searches are always free, but they also have an abundance of free records to view. Check out your ancestors within the Scottish Censuses.

Genuki—Free [www.genuki.org.uk](http://www.genuki.org.uk)  
Genuki is created by amazing volunteers, you will find every genealogical resource you will ever need for the entire UK and Ireland. (Family History Daily—The 10 Best (Mostly Free) Scottish Genealogy Sites for Finding Your Ancestors)

## Unique Genealogy Websites

Alberta Canada Obituaries

<https://www.lenecrologue.com/obituary/state/alberta>

View most recent obituaries published on the web by funeral homes for Alberta. More than 450 new Canadian obituaries added each day.

Alberta Newspaper Archives

[www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com) There are 3 billion articles, photos and stories for 47 countries—1882-2020. They offer a 7-day free trial of their exclusive content.

British Home Children in Canada

[www.canadianbritishhomechildren.weekly.com](http://www.canadianbritishhomechildren.weekly.com)

Home Children was the child migration scheme founded by Annie MacPherson in 1869, under which more than 100,000 children were sent from the UK to Australia, Canada, New Zealand, and South Africa. The program was largely discontinued in the 1930's, but not entirely terminated until the 1970's.

Calgary Municipal Archives

[www.calgary.ca/CA/city-clerks/Pages/Corporate-records/Archives](http://www.calgary.ca/CA/city-clerks/Pages/Corporate-records/Archives)

City of Red Deer Archives [www.reddeer.ca/about-red-deer/history/archives](http://www.reddeer.ca/about-red-deer/history/archives)

Doukhobors in Alberta

[www.doukhobor.org/alberta.html](http://www.doukhobor.org/alberta.html)

This website – the primary internet source connecting researchers of Doukhobor genealogy. Numerous links to Doukhobor Genealogy.

Edmonton City Archives

[https://www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/edmonton\\_archives/city-of-edmonton-archives.aspx](https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/edmonton_archives/city-of-edmonton-archives.aspx)

Located in the historic Prince of Wales Armouries Heritage Centre, the City of Edmonton Archives is a public research facility housing civic government and private records of enduring significance that document Edmonton's history. Browse on our online catalog to discover our holdings.

FamilySearch Research Wiki

[www.wiki.familysearch.org](http://www.wiki.familysearch.org)

The Family Search Research wiki provides handbook reference information articles to help genealogists find and interpret records of their ancestors all over the world. Its free access, free content, online encyclopedia on wiki.

IrishGenealogy.ie [www.irishgenealogy.ie](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie)

Civil registration records for Ireland began from 1845 for non-Roman Catholic marriages and from 1864 for all denominations' birth, marriage and death registrations. Freely searchable at this site. It

not only gives the index details, but scanned copies of the full register pages. Birth records available up to 1916, marriages to 1941 and deaths to 1966.

Lethbridge Municipal Archives

<https://albertaonrecord.ca/city-of-lethbridge-archives-collection>

Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta

<https://mennonitehistory.org>

The Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta seeks to foster, preserve the heritage of Mennonites in Alberta. Check out their archives on this website which contains numerous links to Mennonite collections.

National Archives of Ireland 1901 & 1911 Census site [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)

The census is a gem of a genealogy source. For Ireland, the census records that have survived are the 1901 and 1911. They are available for free on this site.

Naturalization Records, 1915-1951 [www.bac-lac.gc.ca](http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca)

Search by name (1915-1946)—surname, given name, country. Search by date (1947-1951) search screen requests year and the month. Search results page displays the following fields:

Item #, surname, given name (s), country. Click on the underlined Item Number of a record to access the item page, which contains additional information specific to that record.

Provincial Archives Naturalization Records

<http://hermis.cd.gov.ab.ca/paa/Default.aspx?Dept>

Richard Heaton's Index to Digitalized British and Irish Newspapers Online

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dutilieu/BritishandIrishNews.html>

South Peace Regional Archives Surname Database

[www.Southpeacearchives.org/online-databases/surname-database](http://www.Southpeacearchives.org/online-databases/surname-database)

Is located inside the Grande Prairie Museum Building.

The ShipsList. [www.theshipslist.com](http://www.theshipslist.com)

Search free databases on TheShipsList.com 1700-present for lists of passengers to the USA, Canada, Australia, South Africa, St John's NB, New Zealand.

Stephen P Morse Genealogy

<https://www.stevemorse.org/>

Steve Morse's site provides an interface to search databases with one step instead of multiple steps required at the database's home site. Try it for vital records, immigration records, censuses, etc.

(Compiled by Susan Haga)