

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
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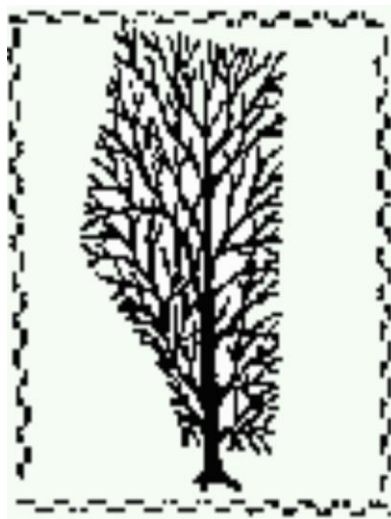


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Editor's Corner



If you want to submit articles, genealogy humor, interesting web sites or have any queries you want us to print feel free to contact us. You can send your submissions to our library email at lsthags@theboss.net or phone (403) 328-9564 for some research help--Susan Haga, Newsletter Editor.

Lethbridge A.G.S. Branch Hours

Library Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Thurs 1:30–4:30 p.m. Meetings are all virtual for the time being (3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.) Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request. See <http://lethbridgeags.theboss.net/Exec.htm>

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

Phone: (403) 328-9564

Membership Dues

Individual or Family Membership (Includes 1 Branch)-\$50.00, Seniors (65+) Individual or Family (Includes 1 Branch)-\$45.00. If you receive RS 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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Vice President	Julie Miller
Treasurer	Kieran Biggins
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President's Message

It seems that summer just ended and seems that things are returning to normal. Well things are not normal as it is the end of October already. I guess that the two mini vacations I had in September might have caused this. One was interrupted due to covid and the other was a trip to Edmonton to attend the 50th anniversary Conference and Board of Director's meeting. I will tell you about this in another report entitled President's Ramblings.

We are back to having in-person meetings with speakers and holding Legacy on Mondays. Down here in Lethbridge it seems we have ignored the greater good of the Genealogy Society, but not just here it seems that all of the Branches are doing this. This is the process of changing that I will mention in my other report. It means a lot of work and a lot of man hours to accomplish these up and coming changes.

Way back in August Velda asked the question: would other branches like to share resources (speakers, special interest groups and topics)? So I asked our President Al Bromling about this. The very next day or two I got an answer from Kurt Paterson (the President of Edmonton Branch). We talked about the future plans of prospects of putting in place this very idea. Since then Kurt went on holiday to Manitoba and stopped in at the Manitoba Genealogical Society in Winnipeg and proposed the very idea to them. Well the next two weeks we put into place a meeting with MGS, SGS and AGS representatives. I will explain more in the attached report President's Ramblings.

We were approached by the Noble School to do a week of genealogy research for some students. Thank you to Eleanor, Bev, Lauren Doug and others for putting this on for the students.

Time sure passes quickly the next thing you know it is time for our annual dinner. It changed this year from our International Dinner to a Fall Dinner. –Thank you President Simmonds

President's Ramblings

Over the last four weeks or so a lot of things have happened.

1. The 50th Anniversary Convention was held in Edmonton . There were a lot of topics and presenters did an excellent job. I could only attend 5 of the sessions and I missed a few good ones. Wendy

- Warren was awarded a certificate of appreciation for helping to edit the 50th Anniversary AGS History book. Our Editor, Susan Haga was awarded a certificate for the Best Original Article titled Genealogy Sharing with Our Family.
2. The Board of Directors Meeting was held the next day. A number of things have arisen from the Board meeting.
 - a. Memberships—it was decided that members who renew by November 30th their names would be entered into a draw to receive a free one-year- membership.
 - b. The board has passed a motion to allow all members to join or watch another Branches SIG (Special Interest Group). You are probably wondering why you are receiving e-mails about different SIGs. Now you know.
 - c. ARNI—it seems that AGS would like to have our cemetery records to add to the database. All of our records are online with Find-A-Grave.
 - d. Researching proposed distribution of funds from membership, all branches would like more funds to help with operating costs.
 3. The Prairie Genealogical Society has formed to work together in genealogy. This includes MGS—Manitoba Genealogical Society, and SGS—Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, and AGS—Alberta Genealogical Society (Edmonton, Camrose, Grand Prairie and Lethbridge Branches.) The first meeting was held on September 27th and it was agreed upon to start on social media and recruit more members through it. Manitoba has some very good ideas on how to do this using social media. We will still need an expert to help us with this. We have a start with Eleanor and Marilyn’s Facebook Page, but there are many options to post on. Also we had 4 other topics to cover communication, sharing of resources for speakers, for advertising, attending other SIGs.
 4. Our Fall dinner was on Friday, October 20th at the library/office, it was a great catered meal. We had a great presenter, Herb Johnson, who was in the Korean

War. Special thanks to Lauren and Win for arranging the Fall dinner. We had problems with the zoom meeting and I will let you know if the talk was recorded.

5. Our next meeting was held on Nov 16th. It was a hybrid meeting all were welcome to attend. Ellen-Thompson-Jennings was our speaker about “Solving Mysteries with your DNA.”
6. As Christmas is fast approaching I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! President Simmonds

Lethbridge Family History Center

The Lethbridge Family History Center is closed now and will re-open on Tuesday, January 9th at 9:30 a.m.

Monthly Meetings

For our monthly meeting Thursday, September 21st at 7:00 p.m. Joyce Schortinghuis gave a presentation on My Heritage and DNA component of what to do once you have DNA matches on a platform. She used My Heritage as the example, but some of it applied from the results of other DNA companies. Joyce is the Director of the Taber Family History center where she has been the Director for 9 years.

On Friday, October 20th we held our Fall Dinner at our AGS Library/office. Twenty-six people were in attendance at the catered roast beef dinner by Country Kitchen. Guests viewed the history boards on the Korean War along with the Korean Service Medals. Our guest speaker Herb Johnson, Retired Warrant Officer shared his experiences in the Korean War and his service in the Canadian Military to mark the seventy years since the armistice signing on July 27, 1953

For our monthly meeting held November 16, Ellen Thompson-Jennings gave a presentation on Solving Mysteries with your DNA. Ellen is the self-proclaimed Family History Hound. She is an author, blogger, genealogist, genetic genealogist, and Forever Senior Ambassador. She used the Leeds Method that uses color-coding method to organize your DNA Matches.

For our monthly meeting that will be held on Thursday, January 18th 2024, Tom Johnson will give a presentation on How the Dominion Lands Act was a part of Settling Our Prairies.

AGS Spotlight

Our spotlight for this newsletter is Wendy Warren, our Lethbridge AGS Secretary. Here's her story of how she got into doing genealogy.

Why did I get into genealogy and why did I join AGS? As far back as I can remember, my family, told us who are ancestors were. As a young adult, my mother and her brother had hosted family reunions.

It was in the 1990's that I became more seriously interested when I attended a family reunion in Falkland, B.C. with my parents. There I learned about the different branches of the Warren family and was told that I had eyes like my great grandfather Falkland himself!!! Upon returning home I decided to put what information was already available onto a family tree program.

I joined the Brooks genealogy group for a short time and wrote an article for their newsletter about my great grandmother, (B&D Heir Lines, Spring 2001). Murielle Jolliffe noticed the article and wondered if it was a match with a wedding announcement for Falkland Warren and Edith Emma Coe she had found in the Lethbridge Herald. I just happened to be at dad's house when she called to see if there was a connection. This added to my interest in finding family information.

For a number of years I just dabbled with my search. Office work for a landscaping company and volunteering for Coyote Flats Pioneer Village where I set up the museum program, took up the majority of my time. One day while curating some items, Merle Goode brought my attention to my grandmother's name in a book bibliography. She was a correspondent for the Lethbridge Herald and had written a series of children's stories in the 1930's based on my grandfather's life on the open range. I collected these stories and turned them into a book for family members. My brother Duane has also found information online that we didn't know existed and this has encouraged my family research. Next I photographed and documented and put the Huntsville Cemetery on FindaGrave.

Then Covid struck. During this time I spent a bit more time developing my family tree but found that the isolation was not good for me either. Now it was time to get out of the house and use my time for something more. I was taking a computer course at LSCO and Winn Evans was a

classmate. You can guess the rest. She invited me to the International Dinner and I decided that the Lethbridge Group was maybe what I needed. Eleanor McMurchy wanted someone to take over the library and I decided that I could start there. Mariyn Astle invited me to help with editing articles for *Relatively Speaking*. I enjoy doing that. Then the 50th Anniversary History book came along. Here we are today...being careful to not overdue volunteering. After all must save time for my own research and research for friends.

Finding Unknown Cemeteries

Several years ago I took a trip with my family to a family funeral in Saskatchewan. On the way we had planned to stop at a family homestead to check out some tombstones located there. There were a number of burials there with names and dates recorded on the tombstones. We recorded all the information found on the tombstones as well as taking pictures. We wandered around this homestead taking pictures of the grounds, vegetation and the home itself. As time was moving on we decided to leave the homestead and continue on our journey to Saskatoon. As we got down the hill we noticed a number of white crosses in the ditch just outside the fence and decided to take a closer look. There were eight white crosses in the ditch right at the end of the hill that lead us to our family's homestead. There were names on each of the white crosses and dates of family members who had earlier in their life emigrated from Russia. I took pictures of all these white crosses as well as I had recorded all the names of these Russian family members.

Later when we arrived at our family funeral we shared this information with our family and learned that these people buried there were indeed our deceased family members. Upon arriving home we had these pictures developed and shared these pictures with all of our family members. (Written by Susan Haga, Editor)

No Time to Waste

Many years ago when I was volunteering in the Lethbridge Family History Center I decided to go and do some research there one day. I had some films I had to view before they had to be returned to the Family History Library in Salt Lake so I was on a tight schedule. As I briskly walked into the Lethbridge FHC I was being approached by one of the family history consultants to see if I would be able to give some assistance to an older man whom she had been trying to help. I was known as one of the main

experts in Western Canadian research. I knew I was on a time crunch and really didn't want to stop and take the time to do this but decided that I could spare a few minutes to help this gentleman. As I sat down he began to explain his research and family to me. He wanted help on the Wasney family line. I was flabbergasted as it was the same family history line that I had been recently working on in the Winnipeg, Manitoba area. We both shared all the information that we had found and had a great discussion on what we both knew about this family. We exchanged our name, address and phone numbers and emails so we could continue collaborating together after returning to our homes. This was the summertime and he was visiting Lethbridge through to return back home. I marveled first that I had chosen to come into the Family History Center this day when he had just happened to be there and that I had chosen to go and assist this man of whom I had so much in common with. My great grandfather Swante Magnuson had married Mary Wasney after his own wife had passed away. She was Polish and her husband John and my great grandfather had been best friends. She only spoke Polish and he only spoke Swedish but somehow they were able to understand each other. She had 12 children of which only 4 were still living in the home with her. They were living in Garson, Manitoba at the time where my grandfather was born. (Written by Susan Haga, Editor).

Irish Virtual Research Library and Archive <https://digital.ucd.ie>

(IVRLA) is a digitization project launched in UCD (University College Dublin in Belfield, Dublin Ireland founded in 1854.) It's a Public Research University and a member institution of the National University of Ireland. It's Ireland's largest university.

The project was conceived as a means to increase and facilitate access to UCD's cultural heritage repositories through the adoption of digitization technologies.

On June 30, 1922 the Four Courts in Dublin and in the neighboring Public Record Office of Ireland (PRO) were consumed by fire, with the destruction of over 800 years' worth of documents relating to Irish history and genealogy.

On June 27 Beyond 2022 launched the Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland, a digital repository of Ireland's public records stretching back to 1174. This portal allows visitors to text-search and to retrieve some 150,000 records and more than 6,000 maps, or browse visualizations that offer dynamic view of datasets. These so called "replacement" materials were mined from the archives of 709 global partners, including the British Library, the National Archives at Kew, University of Notre Dame, and the Morgan Library and museum..

To provide what it terms "next generation access," with Virtual reality in play; platform offers a virtual visit of a digitally recreated PROI building, complete with aerial and ground views. Using navigational arrows, visitors can inspect its exterior and tour its interior in 3D, while reading up on the building's history. A Treasury View further presents users a graphic and interactive way to explore select records. (Compiled by Susan Haga, Editor)

Canadian Church Websites

Archives in the Anglican Church

Archives of Ontario Church Records Collection 1749-1781

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

Association of Canadian Archivists has links to other archival sites

BC Archives

It has a maps section on its homepage including digitized maps.

Canadian Baptist Archives (McMaster Divinity College)

CanGenealogy at:

Includes links to the Drouin Collection 1621-1967 on ancestry.ca, births 1662-1898 on Notarial Records 1800-1900 on Catholic Parish registers etc.

Library and Archives Canada

Has published a listing of the church records in their care; many of these date from the 1850's.

Libraries, Lloyd Reeds Map Collection—Early Printed Maps of Canada 1540-1799.

Lutheran Church of Canada

Map of the Province of Upper Canada (David Rumsey Collection)

Maps of Parishes of Quebec 17th-18th Centuries

Newfoundland & Labrador Provincial Archives
--Church Records

Nova Scotia Archives Oldmaps Online

Ontario, Canada Catholic Church Records (Drouin Collection) 1621-1967

Ont Roman Catholic Church Records 1760-1923

Sources of Religious Records in Ontario

It lists all the denominations in Ontario (alphabetically) their addresses and their hours of operations starting with Anglican through the United Church.

Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives

Their holdings consist of over 3,500 square feet of records. The oldest item in the archives dates from 1638.

Provincial Archives of Alberta

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

The Conference Archives consists of approximately 400 linear meters of records from the 1830's to the present. These records are accessible through the Sandra Thomson Reading Room of the PAA. There is no fee to access the holdings of the Alberta Northwest Conference Archives.

Tanguay Collection 1608-1890

www.anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2011/10/another-source-free-for-tanguay.html

Canadian Ancestors in Quebec. (Compiled by Susan Haga, Editor.)

Maritime Genealogical Websites

Nova Scotia Archives

It includes Nova Scotia Births, Marriages and Deaths, Church Records, Cemetery Records, Probate Records, Land Records, Township Records, Census and Poll Tax records, Passenger Lists, Provincial and City Directories, Newspapers, Maps, Settlement Patterns/Cultural Diversity, and many other records and etc.

Halifax Regional Municipality

Local municipal records are a relatively untapped source for family history research. See town and county records as well.

Library and Archives Canada

Genealogy Page will list Canadian Genealogical web sources, databases and other web sites all throughout Canada including a Nova Scotia section.

Halifax Public Libraries, Local and Family History It is the largest public library system in Nova Scotia.

The Genealogical Association of Nova Scotia promotes the study of genealogy and family history in Nova Scotia to collect and to preserve genealogical material.

Nova Scotia Online Genealogy Records

Extensive links for online genealogy records for Nova Scotia can be found here including birth, marriage and death records and etc.

McAlpine Nova Scotia Directories

McAlpine's Nova Scotia Directory 1907-1908. It was published in Halifax by the McAlpine Publishing Company during 1908. It was part of an ongoing intermittent series of provincial directories, gazetteers and business compendiums produced by the McAlpine firm and others like it, beginning in the 1860's and continuing right up to the First World War. In this web site see a list of surviving provincial directories available at the Nova Scotia archives.

Canada Nova Scotia Vital Records 1763-1957

The index was created by the Nova Scotia Archives. It contains registered births 1864-1877

with some birth entries as early as 1810, delayed births 1836-1907, marriage bonds began in parts of Nova Scotia from 1763-1864 for a few or later years to 1871. Marriage licenses began in 1849. Marriage records from 1864-1908 are indexed by county.

Pier 21—

The East Coast's main point of entry for immigrants, Pier 21 holds a variety of local history and genealogical materials.

Provincial Archives of New Brunswick

They include the following information: L. Brenan's Funeral Home Records, St John Fredericton Burial Permit History 1902-1903, 1908-1911, 1915-1919.

Death Registration of Soldiers 1941-1947

St John's Burial Permits 1889-1919

County Council Marriage Records 1789-1887

Marriage Bonds 1810-1932

Vital Statistic from Government records

Cemeteries

CFB Gagetown Cemeteries

New Brunswick Cemeteries

Directories

Hutchinson 1865-1868

Lovell 1871

Newfoundland and Labrador Archives and Libraries

It includes numerous record types such as biographies, compiled genealogies, cemetery, obituaries, church records, civil registration, census records, court records, directories, emigration/immigration, land and property records, military records, naturalization and citizenship, newspapers, and probate and etc.

Government Public Archives of PEI

It includes baptisms (including the former PEI Baptismal Index 1777-1923.)

Marriage Registration 1920-1936

Marriage Licenses 1827-1919

(Includes digitized originals 1827-1888)

Deaths pre-1906, Death registrations 1906-1968

Archival Collections

Petitions (formerly the PI Petition Index 1780-1915 includes digitized originals.

Supreme Court Case Files 1770-1959.

Different Tips to Tackling Your Research

Tips for Finding Female Ancestors

1. Thoroughly search for marriage records. Marriage records will often be the only documents that will state a woman's maiden name explicitly.

2. Get to know the men in her family.

3. Check Census records because it may show someone listed in the record that at first glance you may tend to overlook.

4. Find an obituary and evaluate the information contained in that obituary.

5. Look closer at male dominated records. Also, often elderly men went to live with their daughters. They also tended to migrate with their in-laws so to follow their families.

Ignore Surnames—sometimes if you look for the given name it will bring success when the surname is illegible, oddly spelt, entered or indexed incorrectly. At times married daughters or remarried widows can be found with this method.

Focus On Unique Identifiers

Often names are common especially in the past. So, focus then on unique identifiers for example occupation, religion, middle name, wife's name, birthplace or home location, and witnesses. Compare signature to others with the same name.

Learn Common Nicknames. Short forms or interchangeable names (For example Molly, Polly, Nancy, Fanny etc.)

Siblings Can Have the Same Name (For example Maria as a first name, Hans, Joseph etc.) In my family all the oldest female's second name was Maude until me (yeah!)

Surnames Can Follow the Female Name

This is unusual but does happen. There are two main reasons for this. 1. A child whose birth is illegitimate. 2. In rare cases when the woman has inheritable property and there are no male heirs. There are usually legal papers to document the change in a case like this.

One Name Studies

If a surname is rare check with the Guild of One Name Studies <https://one-name.org>. Sometimes

you may find that there's already a whole group of people already tracing families with your surname.

Think of Other Possible Surname Variations By making up a collection of possible surnames.

Don't Trust Family Lore

--Do not trust family lore. Not all family lore is correct—so be sure to keep an open mind. Do the research step by step. That way you will know your history is built on fact. When it comes to family stories, there is a guideline to truth lying within them. If we take 80% of the family stories we hear, really only 20% of the information will actually be true.

Understand Why People Might Lie

Usually, information given directly by our ancestors are considered primary sources but it is helpful to understand why people might lie.

Young men lied in order to be old enough for military service. Older men lied in order to avoid military service. Women lied if they eloped without parental consent. Men lied if they were a lot older than the very young woman they were marrying.

Also be wary of women's ages particularly on census records as from a ten-year period to next census they may have only aged 5-7 years!

Widen Search Area Where You Are Researching

It might seem unlikely that our ancestors went to church 20 miles away but often the minister covered a large area and the records ended up in a church we wouldn't expect. So be thorough.

Be Repetitive, Ask Again, Search Again

Try again later on, especially after you've learned more about the family. Maybe you missed it the first time or you'll recognize the neighbors or lodger as extended family members.

Learn to Evaluate Evidence in Your Family Tree!

We often think of our family names as being unique to our particular family. That is generally not true. Same names can be found throughout many countries, provinces, states, towns, and etc. Whereas spelling variations must be acknowledged, having the same name does not constitute family relationships. Fixed surnames began to happen around 900AD. People could choose whatever name they wanted. Often people took on names of their occupations but

that doesn't mean that all bakers were related even in the same village. (Compiled by Susan Haga)

How to Find Our Ancestors!

So how do we find our ancestors when they are never where we expect them to be? The most important thing is to learn as much as you can about them and where they came from. Remember that successful genealogy depends upon three important factors: correct name, correct time period and the correct locality.

Study Their History

First familiarize yourself with where they lived by studying their history learning where they came from and learn about their geography.

Basically, you need to get to know them, discover what they did in their lives and who they spent their time with for example did they live in a rural community or urban. Consult gazetteers, maps and directories and whatever records you can access in their parent country before they emigrated to North America. An important thing to consider did the family change their surname before coming over from the old country to protect themselves in times of war, or during political or religious persecution. Remember to always be open-minded with the information that you are finding and always be willing to ask questions about your findings.

Analyze Your Pedigree Chart

Start by looking at your finding, does your research make sense could a woman born in 1850 give birth to a child in 1860 so constantly evaluate the information that you are finding. 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 family. This may give you a clue to what your original family names may have been for example for your parents or your grandparents. A friend of mine discovered after 15 years (and hiring a professional researcher) that she had been researching the wrong family line thinking it was her grandmother as there were two women from the same village in England who had similar names. But they would have had different names for their siblings. So make sure to look for information in their lines that will distinguish them from someone else with a similar name, for example a siblings name and the correct vital information.

Verify Dates and Places

Make sure to verify dates and places. Check your sources and dates making sure that their marriage date occurs after their birth date and not before. Birth records include the names of both the parents while marriage records usually only include the father's name. Birth and marriage records are considered primary sources, but death records can only be primary sources if the informant was a family member otherwise they are considered secondary sources. Make sure to use more than one source because this will ensure if a person really belongs to your family. You need to verify the information that you are finding and remember that half of doing genealogy is thinking about what you have found before moving on. Most importantly, check every source that you can get your hands on leaving no stone unturned.

Remember to check out their occupations as trades were often passed down from father to son. Usually farmers' sons often inherited their parents land particularly the oldest son and often Bakers sons usually became Bakers not Doctors or lawyers. There are also trade union lists available to search particularly in the UK.

How to Get Unwilling Relatives to Share

Next how do we get unwilling relatives to share their family history with us? The first step is to be willing to share what you have found on their family line first with them. Then you can see if they would then be willing to share with you. Through sharing we can straighten out some of our discrepancies. Remember to be sensitive to their feelings. Sometimes others may be concerned about what you plan on doing with the research that they may give you. Be willing to accept whatever they are willing to share with you it may be nothing at first. Perhaps later they will consider sharing some of their information with you.

When the Availability of Records is Limited or Seems Unavailable

What can we do when the availability of records is limited or seems unavailable? Sometimes it is harder to find records in some parts of the world more than in others. So we need to become creative so remember to check other resources that you have never checked before besides ancestry.com or familysearch.org so widen your search. There are many online resources around that we can check some are free and some have

paid subscriptions, but they may offer free access at different times. Also check local libraries, university libraries, Provincial and National archives online resources. Also seek out genealogical or historical societies (by their website or by phoning them) where your ancestor may have lived. Sometimes when visiting a parish you may offer a donation up front before viewing their records. I contacted a genealogical society in the U.S. by phone years ago and they went and did a lookup for me that was of great benefit to my research and in turn I sent them a small donation to thank them for their helpfulness.

Destroyed or Lost Records

Some records may have been destroyed as we all may have experienced from time to time which may make it difficult in pursuing our research particularly countries like Ireland. In Ireland some of their records were destroyed by fire in 1922 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 our next plan is to search for town and county records, court records, tax records, and voting records and many more. Court records include any kind 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 notes. With tax records there were many types of tax records, especially in England. The earliest national tax records were called "lay subsidies". Other taxes followed such as poll tax, between 1660-1668 and of course the hearth and window tax.

Ancestors Who Moved From Place to Place

So how do I find my ancestors who moved from one place to another, make a historical timeline of the areas where your family may have lived. What was going on there politically or religiously at the time that they lived there and particularly at the time that they chose to leave. It's very important also to create a personal timeline of your family based on events in their lives as well and see what records are available in a specific place and time. Comparing our family's personal timelines (for example where they were born, married and died) with historical timelines can bring important insights and add

interest to our family's history. Local and 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 Potato Famine of 1845-1847.

Keep a history reference binder on places your ancestor 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 as gazetteers are very helpful reference books. Many of these resources are online and can be found at public libraries, archives, genealogical societies, and at family history centers.

Timelines Will Help

1. Get new ideas for different records as we compare where we 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 your ancestors lived by learning about the times and places in which they lived.

Our ancestors may have come to Canada or to the United States because they were following a family member who came first like my great grandfather from Sweden did, his brother followed about ten years later. Gazetteers can show changes in a locality that may have precipitated moves or altered the family situation (for example like the flood in High River several years ago, some had to leave the area while others chose to stay and repair their homes.) 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 also keep a copy of it on your computer.

Local History Books

Try and locate local history books which can tell you a lot about their community once they immigrated to Canada and to the U.S. Local History Books contain biographies and family histories of the residents of the

community. See if the communities or church kept records of the move-ins and move-outs as the Scandinavians did. Some parishes required a certificate before people relocated or the Minister just kept track of where his flock went. Be aware of what their nationality was. As sometimes people would return to their homeland briefly, and then sometimes they would return back to their North American home and then years later perhaps with other family members. Remember to check immigration and naturalization records (See Collections Canada). Remember also, that people seldom traveled alone so check passenger lists for other family members.

Nationalities

Different nationalities moved to areas in Canada and the U.S. that resembled what their homeland looked like and often would move to communities already established where people of their same nationality lived. There are many historical maps showing where the different immigrants, congregated to. Also there are maps showing the different occupations of people who lived in the different areas as well.

Family Stories and Traditions

When you hear family stories and traditions, how then do you know if they are true or just hearsay? Let your family traditions serve as a guide 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.) The best advice is to seek truth not word of mouth. Also be careful of ancestral trees on Ancestry.com and on MyHeritage.com unless they are backed up by sources. Documenting our sources is very important.

Females in Our Pedigree

The females in our family lines are the most challenging part of our genealogical research and the hardest to find. There were long periods of time where women simply were 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 the family first to find them.

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 married 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. Several years ago I found my great grandmother's will listing all her children including their spouses names and where they were living at the time of her death. This was very helpful.

Death Records

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

Obituaries

Obituaries of course are loaded with oodles of genealogical information besides where the deceased died and was buried and their immediate family. You can learn who all the children were, who they married, and where they were living at the time of their death. Some obituaries contain long biographical histories naming other relatives and where they came from and who they might have married. (Compiled by Susan Haga, Editor)

Writing Your Family Histories

My interest in family history began with starting to write my own personal history with the help of my leaders in school and in church. My mother wrote the first 6 years of my life and at age 11 years I continued writing and updating information from my journals and diaries I had kept as a child and through the years. By the time I left for College I had accumulated a lot of the written word on my life and continued to keep a daily journal afterwards.

When I started doing actual research which I started later on with my family and ancestral lines I was excited in what I was able to learn about their lives from census records, civil registration, parish records and local history books, directories as well as occupational records which gave me an understanding of their day-to-day life.

We owe our ancestors our very existence from parents to grandparents to great grandparents and so on. We often know their names but nothing really of their lives, unless passed down to us from our families. We need to learn about the things that shaped their lives. Getting to know them helps us to get to know ourselves even better.

We all have a story! Some lives may seem more eventful than others but every life is worth learning about. Many years ago, I interviewed my maternal grandmother even though that was a hard thing for her to talk about because she wasn't sure that she had that much to tell. I can assure you there was. We all have good days, not so happy days, and our story is full of all of our day-to-day struggles.

I gave her a 15- page interview questionnaire for her to look at for about a week and then I went back to go over her answers with her. After I spent about a few days with her interviewing her I learned a lot. Her life was a definitely a difficult one raising her nine children and one daughter who had been accidentally burned from the fireplace flames when sparks hit her chiffon dress causing her dress to go up in flames and burning her very badly because she was standing too close to it. She was admitted to hospital and died eventually from bedsores because it was wartime and not enough nurses to cover the patients in the hospital. I learned a lot from her history. Prior to my grandmother's passing, she asked me to deliver the biography at her funeral. This was a very difficult task to take on. Afterwards several of her children came up to me and asked how I knew all that information because they were a lot older than me and they didn't know half the information that I had spoken about in her biography.

Through that experience I learned a lot about her family. I then decided to do my mother's history and I learned a lot about her siblings my aunts and uncles as well. It's a great way to learn about close members of our family.

After that point I started focusing on the history of my other grandparents with my paternal grandmother and a lot of her information came from a very detailed biography at her funeral that the minister had given me. I also just wrote up the history of my grandfather's history summarizing information from local history books, and family histories and research that I had done.

Then in 1986 I did an 80 page fully footnoted and documented oral history on my maternal great grandparents by interviewing every one of their children who lived in Calgary at that time. It was a very enlightening experience for me. I made photocopies for all of my grandmother's siblings for a Christmas present that year. My great grandparents immigrated from Parker, Fremont, Idaho to Staveley, Alberta and then onto Claresholm, Alberta. I included historical maps and pictures of their homestead. My great grandmother was a Relief Society President (for the women's society in the Church there) for years in Claresholm.

Family trees are one of the most sought after, things when a family is trying to connect to their roots. They are now prevalent on the internet. It's like combining pedigree charts with the family group records. They can contain more information that they may show in a regular database program and be accessed by people all around the world. They range from simply one or two generations to thousands of ancestors through many generations. The information found on trees can range from bare bones and conjecture to being complete with documentation, photos, and stories.

They can be great or they can be misleading by making connections to people who are not related in any way.

All kinds of claims can be made ranging from the absurd to amazing things to prove who our ancestors are.

We need to remember that we are ancestors as well. Our histories are important to leave for our descendants. All ancestor stories can help the future of their descendants.

What Sources Can Help You in Writing Histories?

- Home Sources
- Local History Books
- Book of Remembrances
- Old Newspapers
- Church Records
- Journals/Diaries
- Scrapbooks
- Photo Albums
- Letters and Cards
- Directories

- Census Records
 - Timelines
 - Land Records
 - Court Records
 - Old Newspapers
 - Historical Facts
- (Compiled by Susan Haga)

Canadian Food Inventions

How many of these foods are part of your families story?

- Butter Tarts—Barrie 1900
- Nanaimo Bars—Nanaimo 1952
- Poutine—Montreal late 1950's
- Hawkins Cheezies—Belleville 1949
- Ginger Ale—Toronto 1907
- Pablum—Toronto 1930
- Instant Mashed Potatoes—Ottawa 1962
- Yukon Gold Potatoes—Guelph 1960's
- Peanut Butter—Montreal 1884
- California Rolls—Vancouver 1971
- Cuban Lunch—Winnipeg 1948
- The Caesar Drink—Calgary 1969
- Beaver Tails—Ottawa—1978
- Maple Syrup—Quebec Pre 1700-1800's
- Hawaiian Pizza—Chatham 1962
- Ginger Beef- Calgary 1975
- Chewing Gum—Toronto 1860's
- (Lorna Astle-Fox—Lethbridge, Alberta Genealogy Group)

Genealogy Humor

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

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

If you don't know history, you don't know anything. You are a leaf that doesn't know it's a part of a tree. —Michael Crichton

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

We need to haunt the house of history and listen anew to the ancestor's wisdom. —Maya Angelou

If we tried to sink the past beneath our feet, be sure the future would not stand. —Elizabeth Barrett Browning