

YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS
Alberta Genealogical Society
Lethbridge and District Branch
Vol. 38 No. 3
November 2021
ISSN 0836-5319

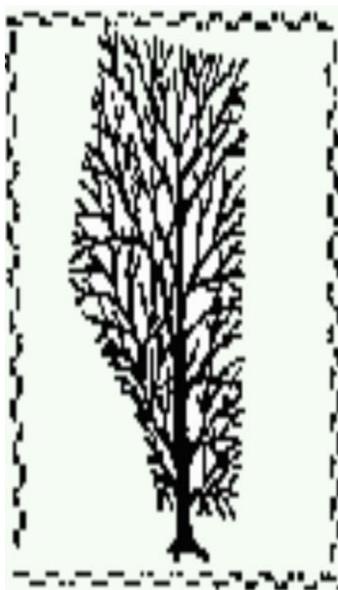


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Editor's Corner



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

Lethbridge A.G.S. Branch Hours

Library Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 1:30–4:30 p.m. Meetings are all virtual for the time being (3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.) Visitors Welcome! Our library will be closed July and August and December but can be open on request. See our web site at:

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

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

Phone: (403) 328-9564

Membership Dues

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).

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President's Message

Greetings Lethbridge AGS members. As another year draws to a close, our Society finds itself with the challenge of locating suitable space for our Resource Centre at a cost we can afford. Any suggestions you have in this regard are most welcome.

Looking to 2022, we are optimistic that we will be holding our general meetings in person again. However, we plan to continue offering the video conference option, which works better for some members. Please consider sharing your research successes, strategies and brick walls with us by presenting at a general meeting, dropping in to Monday Legacy group, or writing an article, or writing an article for our newsletter, Yesterday's Footprints, or the AGS Journal Relatively Speaking.

I send warmest wishes to you and your family for the festive season and 2022. By President Marilyn Astle

Monthly Meetings

On Thursday September 16, 2021 of AGS Zoom meeting at 7:00 p.m. our guest speaker was Joyce Shortinghaus on "How to Save Your Old Photos & Stuff in a digital form."

On Thursday, October 21, 2021 at our monthly meeting of AGS via Zoom at 7:00 p.m. Our guest speaker was David Tyler who spoke on "How to Find Records that are not online."

Our November 13 AGS International Dinner was canceled due to the Clubhouse at Bridge Villa Estates being closed. It is not known when it will reopen. Our presenter, Gordon Tolten had planned to speak to us on his new book Healy's West, The Life and Times of John J. Healy. I'm sure we will get an opportunity to hear him present this topic in the future.

GenFair 2022

Grande Prairie Branch will host the AGS GenFair and Annual General Meeting on April 23, 2022. A Planning Committee was formed in September. The members are: Gail Schau, Ed Hall, Jean, Al Bromling and Clayton Tiro-Burns who is a Grande Prairie Public Library representative.

Presently we are negotiating for three speaker sessions using Zoom delivery. Session one: focus on FamilySearch new sources and update how to access.

Session two: focus on Breakthrough Research using Genealogical Proof Standards approach. Session three: focus on Breakthrough Research using DNA methodologies.

The AGS Annual General Meeting will be at 3 p.m.

The schedule will be from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Speakers will be remote, present by AGS Zoom delivery, chat feature for interaction with presenters. No theme at this time has been decided on. If we are able to host a local on-site gathering for members and guests, we would like to add a social element at the end. (Taken from Al Bromley's Report to the Board)

Lethbridge Family History Center Hours

The Lethbridge Family History Center had been opened temporarily the first two weeks in September but is now closed again until we can move on from this pandemic. For research help see Family Search Research Wiki found on www.familysearch.org

Helping Youth with Family History

Children and youth learn through stories and activities. The more senses that are used to teach a concept, the better they will remember it. Keep this in mind when you are planning family history to share with children and youth that you may know. Of course, it is also important to adjust what you are teaching to the age level of the youth you are working with.

Where do I begin?

Begin with your own story or personal history then broaden one generation at a time. Ask the youth what they already know about a specific parent or grandparent and build on that.

Gathering

Have them talk to their family at family reunions and they may find information will come from unexpected sources. Collect family pictures, memorabilia, and stories. Older family members love to talk about their lives in the past. Its better to start right away before key people in your family has passed away.

Start interviewing older generations and nowadays you can even use your cell phone to record special stories and history. Start writing down questions to ask family members as you interview them. Sometimes you can even interview family members you live far away over the telephone or through virtual means. Do not, be surprised if two people remember the same experience with different

views. That is okay because that is what history is all about.

Remember to record the information, the date, and the place the interview was conducted at. Make sure you state this at the beginning of the interview and then type it out at the beginning of your transcription. Record all accounts remembering that the person who was present at an event will likely be more accurate than the one shared by a person who heard the story from someone else.

Following is a list of some possible ways that stories may be shared: Remembering that the hands-on approach will help the youth remember it more. See below:

- Written and oral histories
- Published personal and family histories.
- Scrapbooks and photo albums
- Story books from times your ancestors lived.
- Existing family trees and ones that the youth can create on their own.
- Family History games to help youth figure out who the individual ancestors are.
- Ancestral dolls and toys your family may have had.

Check out Puzzilla on www.familysearch.org

Check out <http://kids.familytreemagazine.com>

Fun, Games, Toys--Pioneer Children
<http://www.saskschoolsinfo.com>

Genealogy Coloring Books with ancestral photos. See www.familytreemagazine.com

See Climbing My Family Tree: For Kids of All Ages: Family History Coloring Books
www.climbingmyfamilytree.blogspot

DIY Family History Crafts
(How to make a Family History Coloring Book) www.mycanvasblog.com

Pages for Students www.saskschoolsinfo.com

160 Family History Projects and Crafts ideas in 2021 (Pinterest) <https://www.pinterest.com>

48 Pioneer Games and Activities ideas in 2021—Pinterest www.pinterest.com (compiled by Susan Haga)

Canadian Genealogy Websites

Alberta Canada Obituaries

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

Alberta Newspaper Archives

<https://newspaperarchive.com/ca/alberta>

Archive Society of Alberta

www.archivesalberta.org/membership/directory-of-archive

British Home Children in Canada

www.canadianbritishhomechildren.weekly.com

Calgary Municipal Archives

www.calgary.ca/CA/city-clerks/Pages/Corporate-records/Archives

Canadian Obituaries Forum Alberta

www.archivesalberta.org/membership/directory-of-archive

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

<https://www.canada.ca/en/services/immigration-citizenship.html>

City of Red Deer Archives www.reddeer.ca/about-red-deer/history/archives

Doukhobors in Alberta

www.doukhobor.org/alberta.html

Edmonton City Archives

https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/edmonton_archives/city-of-edmonton-archives.aspx

FamilySearch Research Wiki

www.wiki.familysearch.org

Glenbow Museum Newspaper Clippings

www.glenbow.org/search/library/NewspaperSearch.asp

Lethbridge Municipal Archives

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

Library of Congress <https://www.loc.gov>

Mennonite Historical Society of Alberta

<https://mennonitehistory.org>

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/~dutilleu/BritishandIrishNews.html>

South Peace Regional Archives Surname Database

www.Southpeacearchives.org/online-databases/surname-database/

Stephen P Morse Genealogy

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

The ShipsList. www.theshipslist.com

(Submitted by Susan Haga)

Treasures Found in Hillside

Several years ago, I went on a genealogy trip with a friend to her family's homestead heading to a funeral in Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan, which is Doukhobor country. On the way there we wanted to find her ancestors homestead high up in the hills. On the way there as we were driving down the road, I had a thought that if there was anything of great importance that I needed to find that I would stumble upon it. Well stumble upon it I did.

As we were traveling down the road and enjoying the beautiful day, I suddenly turned my eyes quickly to the driver's window of the vehicle and on the left side of the road just outside the fenced off farmer's field my eyes fell upon several white crosses, barely showing up in the ditch. I immediately shouted, "Stop the car, stop the car". We pulled over and there lined up in the long ditch were 8 white crosses with names of my friend's ancestors written on the crosses. We learned later that they had emigrated originally from Terpanie, Russia. I immediately took out my phone and started taking pictures of it for my friend and jotting down all the information recorded on the white crosses.

When we returned home, we first shared with her family all the names and dates that we had found and then started doing research on these individuals and discovered more missing pieces to the puzzle.

We did finally as we drove further down the road, we saw a homestead up upon a hill and once driving up an old country road, we made it to the top of the hill finding not only the homestead and but more graves pertaining to her family. We both took pictures of the homestead and graves dating back before 1900.

Eventually we got to the funeral in Blaine Lake, Saskatchewan which was our original goal of the trip to meet up with her family and friends. (Written by Susan Haga).

Interesting Family History Resources

Civil Registrations: Most countries began civil registration of inhabitants around the 1600s onward. They usually include birth, marriage and death. This information was minimal including father's name (mother's name on birth and marriage certificates), persons age, address, and occupation.

Court Records: Court record types are referred to as: Chancery Court, Quarter Sessions, Prerogative Court, Assize Court, Town and County Courts. Civic affairs are kept under local court records.

Death Records: Monumental Inscriptions—sometimes generations of families may be listed on monuments. Cemetery records is a wealth of information. Obituaries (check newspapers). Mortcloth were black cloths placed over a coffin. Unless one was rich and owned their own family mortcloth, these had to be rented. Check Mortcloth dues.

Immigration: All countries kept records of immigration/emigration. Often immigrants took “indirect routes” which meant they would travel from one port to another picking up more passengers. If people disembarked for any reason, they would have to report to an office (police in nature).

Licenses: Check local court records as tight controls were placed on people for what they could or could not do. They were generally specific. If a person had a license to sell ale, they couldn't sell any stronger liquid.

Manorial (Estate) Records: Most countries had class distinctions of the rich and the poor. In order, for heads of states to keep control of the masses, they would give lands to other rich people to control and support the general-public. These are often the most revealing in the lives of our ancestors. Even “manor courts” were held and were “jury-like” in format. The Lords had overseers, stewards, bailiffs, reeves to help govern the lands. These records often date back to the 1300s. They not only keep track of the tenants but may include wills and probates. They usually include names, relationships and places and dates.

Military Records:

War has been around since beginning of time Great lists were created to keep track of who was available in case of war. Most are usually available from 1600s onward.

Pensioners, Muster rolls

War veterans list, Widows--deceased soldiers

Naturalizations Records: When immigrants planned to stay in a new country they could apply for naturalization. This gave them the right to remain in the country but not necessarily full citizen rights. Family members usually did not have to apply for this as long as their husbands did. The application would list everyone in the family. In Canada British citizens did not have to apply for naturalization.

Newspapers: Since the earliest of times from the inventing of the printing press on newspapers printed world events, country events right down to family information such as birth, and marriage and death information. Often including local gossip, including comings and goings of individuals traveling abroad and land transference.

Parish Chest or Vestment Records: The mundane parts of church business were recorded in chest or vestment records. These often include atypical types of lists such as pew assignments, poor supports, people taxed for support, overseer reports, inventories of poor people belongings, wills, money transactions, church memberships, tithes, mortcloth dues, floor stones, bastardy bonds, marriage bonds, payment for lost souls.

Bonds: Marriage Bonds: Would be filed with Courts or with parishes. An amount of money would be kept ensuring care, for the woman in the relationship so the men could not squander away her inheritance and thereby left destitute.

Bastardy Bond: Were issued where an illegitimate child was born, and the parents did not wish to marry. The man would have to post a bond (money) to the amount to the amount it would be estimated for the care of the child.

Probate Indexes: Had to be filed within a year of someone dying. Check letters of administration. Often including inventory.

Removal Certificates: If an individual was found to be in an area where not legally allowed, a removal certificate would be issued, and overseers and sheriffs would escort the individual out to their birth parish or “run out on a rail.”

School Records: Early records were kept for those attending universities or colleges. When public education began at the common level, many records were kept on younger children as well.

Tax Records: Just like death to everyone is inevitable so were taxes. Over the centuries, many types of tax lists were kept to get money from one group to give to another. Some taxes hearth taxes, window taxes, cart taxes, and dog or horse taxes. See Tax Valuations (Ireland), Poll Tax 1695 shows head of household to be taxed.

Towns and Civic Censuses: Important because the information covered from censuses allowed them to get government support according to the numbers of population.

Trinity House Petitions—Are petitions of merchant sailors or their widows, who were seeking financial assistance from the Corporation of Trinity House at Deptford in Kent and London. The Corporation distributed charitable funds entrusted to it by benefactors for the aid of seafarers and their dependents.

Vagrancy Passes: It was illegal in many countries to be a vagrant (including gypsies). Passes could be issued for work purposes (similar to work visas) but otherwise vagrants would be punished by being sent to workhouses, jails, foreign colonies or even put to death.

Vital Records: Includes information included in Bibles, church records, marriage bonds and licenses, newspapers etc.

Voter's Lists: In the past it was usually restricted to landowners, businessmen, free-men, or nobility and definitely not the poor. Lists were compiled to determine who had the right to vote. Whereas in earlier times around 1900s more people were included in the voter's lists often found in local history

books. (Submitted by Susan Haga—information taken from www.familysearch.org and ancestry.com)

Finding Your Ancestor's Story

Family History is one of the fastest growing hobbies in the world. There is the pull to learn where you came from, there is the fun of being an ‘arm-chair detective’, there is the wonder of immersing yourself in story—not the latest fictional best-seller into which you can escape on a lazy summer day, but the romance tragedy, mystery of your own flesh-and-blood.

Like many of you we may have been given a family tree by a relation who had been doing some research. After looking through their family history information we become intrigued and start branching out on our own.

My first start was ordering my grandparents marriage registration that included a lot of information on them and listed who my great grandparents were and from there I started doing a lot of my own individual research. I started researching in Ancestry.com, MyHeritage.com, Cyndislist.com and Familysearch.com. We may have even started attending a local genealogical society attending their meetings like I did or using a local family history center. Maybe we've even thought about volunteering! What a great idea! I've enjoyed all volunteer experiences with Alberta Genealogical Society and our Lethbridge Family History Center. I've taught numerous family history classes in both of these organizations.

What about you? Is there a family story that you would like to learn more about? Sometimes we are intrigued in one ancestor more than another.

For example, my grandmother Alice Rose Burton lived in Stonewall, Manitoba. She came to Canada in 1907. After searching the civil registration for England, I found her birth certificate, she was born in Westham, Essex, England in 1906. What a joy when I received that in the mail. After pouring over the information on that certificate I discovered who my great grandfather was William Henry Burton who was born in Stratford, Essex, England. I searched in the Soldiers of the First World War and found his attestation papers and I later found out that he had died in 1917 in the war.

I then began searching the census records in England and later in Canada and parish records and newspapers and I found oh so much more information. I began slowly filling in the holes on my pedigree chart and through using local history books I found family histories of my family.

Its important to follow the paper trail to learn the names of your ancestors but its also very important to learn about their lives and what was important to them. Where did they live, how did they live, where did they attend church, what schools did their children attend. Local history books may provide the written word and also provide pictures of activities that they were involved in. Thus, putting flesh on their bones. Getting to know our ancestors is very important. For me it has been one of the greatest adventures of my life! (Written by Susan Haga)

Power Searching with Google

Learn tips and tricks to become a fast and effective fact-finder with Power Searching with Google. This will help you discover some ways for finding information about your ancestors and/or their lives.

Great how-to videos <http://www.powersearchingwithgoogle.com> Google Search is a search engine that brings back text results from publicly accessible documents online. These include websites (such as Wikipedia—or familysearch.org), reference works (such as the Dictionary of Canadian Biography), documents (such as pdf and word files), bulletin boards and mailing lists (such as rootschat.com), digitized books and digitized newspapers.

To get the most out of Google Search you need to know some search strategies. Use web-friendly words. Use words most likely to appear on web pages. Brainstorm a list of words ahead of time. If your ancestor's records are in another language look up words in that language (familysearch wiki can help with this).

What You Can Do with Google Search

--Gather information about your ancestors from family trees.

--Learn about daily life when your ancestor lived Read about your ancestor or their times in a digital book. Google Books has over 7 million valuable books online.

--Watch a youtube video about your ancestor's home, country or times.

--Find a cousin via bulletin board or mailing lists.

Favorite Types of Searches:

How Search Works: Google looks for the word you typed in, but sometimes also looks for synonyms or related terms. Any words appearing in

boldface type in your search results are terms Google associates with your search terms.

Choose Effective Keywords: Remember to think about the words you think will be in your desired results page. Determine the most important words in your search as well as potential synonyms.

Word Order matters: Like small words, (a, the) matter, like when they distinguish between two similar entities.

Punctuation that matters: \$, #, and + (when used as C++, Google+)

Quotes: Use quotes to search for a phrase. Quotes glue words together; there can be additional words before or after the phrase, but the phrase will always stay together in the results.

Information Panels: Information about certain topics (for example; landmarks, famous people, movies, chemical elements) appears directly on the search results page (top box on the right-hand side).

Translate: Translate words, sentences, and pages by using <http://translate.google.com/>.

Foreign Language Search: Search in foreign languages using English by clicking "More search tools" on the left panel of your results page, then select "Translated foreign pages". This feature chooses the best language in which to search and delivers results translated back into English.

Minus (-): Eliminate irrelevant results. There must be a space before the minus sign. There must not be a space between the minus sign and the word you want to eliminate. Example: [tesla-coil]

Plus (+): Does not mean "and," nor does it force inclusion of a word. Google can search for certain plus signs after a word (for example C++ and Google+). A plus sign before a search term, used as an operator, looks for a Google +Page by that name.

Shortcuts (search features)

Google search features include weather, time, flight numbers, earthquakes, world capitals, sunrise/sunset times, movies, stock quotes, sports scores, package tracking numbers, medical conditions and package tracking numbers, medical conditions, and medications. Check out the full list of

search features. These search features are available on cell phone, iPad, or anywhere Google is available (like on your phone while you are cooking in the kitchen).

Math and Calculations:

Enter any math equation into the search box, and Google will calculate your answer.

Search Strategies: Sometimes search results offer information that suggests a better or additional search.

Refine Results by Using Different Media Types: like videos and news; these filters appear in the left side of the search results page.

Combine Operators for Stronger Searches: Operators can be placed anywhere in the query without affecting the results. For example: [black cats, site:com] is equivalent to [site:com black cats].

Combine Methods and Approaches: To Find Information Efficiently.

Use Tools: that are not traditionally used for research, like Maps and Streetview. (On tablets, it's best to use the Google Maps application instead of looking at streetview in the browser).

To Keep Updated on Google Search:

Pick a blog to read to keep up-to-date:

--Official Google Blog <https://googleblog.blogspot.com>

--Inside Search <https://www.thelandscapeoflearning.com>

--Google AdSense <https://www.google.com/>

--The Keyword <https://blog.google>

--Official Google Canada Blog <https://canada.googleblog.com>

--SearchResearch (By Dan Russell)

<http://searchresearch1.blogspot.com>

--Google Search Central Blog <https://developers.google.com> (Information taken from Jessica Coupe—Family History Consultant at the Lethbridge Family History Center).

Chance Meeting

Many years ago, I decided to go and do some research in our local Family History Centre. I thought I would just pop in, slip quietly into the back room, and check out some research books that I had been longing to search on my family from Western Canada. I thought if I slipped in quietly maybe I would go in unnoticed and could dive right into what I needed to accomplish.

Then as I was walking briskly past one of the research tables in the main part of the library a family history consultant approached me asking if I could come and assist some patrons who needed some help (that often happened whenever I walked into the family history center). I hesitated because I really wanted to check out this specific resource to see what I could find on my own family. Then I thought maybe it will only take a minute, so I turned around and walked over to the table where these visiting patrons were sitting and sat myself down.

There sat an older gentleman and some members of his family who were visiting from Winnipeg, Manitoba the very area that my ancestors had immigrated to in 1892 from Sweden.

They started talking about the Wasney family who had lived in Garson, Manitoba and had married into the Magnuson family. My great grandfather had married Mary Wasney after his wife had died. She was Polish and had 12 children.

Her husband John Wasney was a very good friend of my great grandfather Swanty Magnuson. John had asked Swanty if he would look after his wife after he passed away with cancer which he did shortly thereafter. Mary only spoke Polish and Swanty only spoke Swedish. This older man was researching not only the Wasney line but another line that was on offshoot of that family the Rostecki line. Needless to say, we had a long visit talking about these two families and this man provided me with lots of new information on this family while I shared with him what I knew as well.

I then assisted him in locating some research resources that he was wanting to find. This gentleman and his family had been on vacation here in Lethbridge and had decided to stop into the Lethbridge Family History Centre to see what they could find. I marveled at this chance meeting and as I was leaving after doing my intended research, I thought to myself what if I had been too busy that day to stop and help these travelers, I would have missed a great opportunity. Now I know nowadays that our research is mainly online but there are many opportunities to help people online or at genealogical societies, or family history centers virtually and archives. Experience tells me that you never know what you may learn. (Written by Susan Haga)

The Value of Church Records in Canadian Family History

Church records are a valuable source for proving the dates and places of births, marriages and

deaths and the identity and relationships of family members.

They are particularly important prior to the start of keeping government birth, marriage, and death certificates. Since civil authorities did not begin registering vital statistics in most provinces until after 1867, church records are the major information source before this date.

To effectively use church records become familiar with their content by reading the Wiki article,

What Can I Find in Canadian Church Records?

An understanding of content will guide your research strategy.

Prepare by Collecting Background Information You will possibly find many different people with the same name as your ancestor, especially when a family stayed in a locality for several generations and several children were named after the grandparents or aunts and uncles. Be prepared to find the correct church records by gathering in advance as many of these exact details about the ancestor from other record sources as possible.

Names

--name, including middle name and the maiden name

--names of all spouses, including middle and maiden name

--exact or closely estimated dates of birth, marriage, and death

--names and approximate birthdates of children

All known places of residence

--occupations

--military service details

Tip: Carefully evaluate the church records you find to make sure you have really found records for your ancestor and not just a “near match”. If one or more of the details do not line up, be careful about accepting the entry as your ancestor.

There are guiding principles for deciding how to resolve discrepancies between records that are seeming close. Remember to always evaluate the evidence.

Where Did Your Ancestors Worship?

Knowing the denomination of your ancestor is an important part of church records research. Start by learning how to search a variety of records for clues to the denomination, locality, and possibly even the specific names of the churches where your ancestors worshipped. Its important to determine the Church your ancestor attended in Canada.

Two Important Ways to Search for Church Records

Search For Church Records by Denomination:

--Check census records that give the religious denomination that your ancestor had given at the time the census was taken.

--See marriage certificates for your ancestors if available and they usually note where they were married. Then check wiki articles for records of major churches in Canada (There are at least 21 major religions to check).

For Smaller Denominations

There are, of course, many denominations with smaller member numbers and only a few congregations. Generally, the most efficient way to find their records would be to contact the local church.

Usually, their records are kept locally. If they are elsewhere in the archives, they will be able to advise you. See also the Canadian Church Directory.

Search also for Church Records by Canadian Province. See familysearch.org wiki links to articles on each province (13). It lists online record collections and a brief history of major religions in the province. Contact information, website links, collection descriptions, and services available for province, university, society, and local church archives within the province.

Finnish Research

Finland is a Nordic country in Northern Europe bordered by Sweden, Norway, Russia and Estonia. Before 1809 Finland was a part of Sweden from 1809 to 1917 it belonged to the Russian Empire. Finnish and Swedish are the official languages.

Learn about the types of records used for Finnish research. Several factors can affect your choice of which records to search. Factors such as: record contents, availability, ease of use, time period covered, and reliability of the records, as well as the likelihood that your ancestor will be listed in them must be considered. To do effective research you should:

--Begin by obtaining some background information.

--Look for any research that may have been previously done on the individual or family of interest.

--Search original records

Background Information

It will help to understand Finland's history. If possible, study a history of the areas where your ancestors lived. Look for clues about the people, places, and events that may have affected their

lives and the records about them. Records with information about migration routes, nearby cities, county boundaries, governmental jurisdictions, and local historical events may be described in periodicals from the area.

Learn about Finnish jurisdictions

You will need to know how Finland was divided into counties (historically) and how each county is divided into parishes and other jurisdictions.

Use language helps

The records and histories of Finnish places will usually be written in Finnish or Swedish. You do not need to know the entire Finnish or Swedish language to search the records, but you will need to learn some key words and phrases. Some helpful sources are described in the Family Search Wiki. For help with the Finnish language.

Understand naming patterns

The naming patterns of Finland were influenced by factors such as where your ancestor lived (in the city or in a rural area), the time period, the social standing and the occupation. Be very careful in making conclusions of the relationship. Understanding the naming customs can help you locate missing ancestors, and prevent the mistake of choosing an incorrect ancestor or family.

Understand local customs

Local customs may have affected the way individuals were recorded in the records.

Look For Any Research that Someone Else May Have Done.

Most genealogists evaluate the research previously done by others. This can save time and give you valuable information. Check:

--Printed or online family histories & genealogies
--Biographies

--Local histories

Remember that information in these sources might be wrong, depending on who did the research. Therefore, you need to analyze and verify the information you find from these secondary sources.

Search Original Records

After surveying previous records, you will be ready to begin original research. To do thorough research, you should search each place where your ancestor lived, during the time period where he or she lived there. You need to search all jurisdictions that kept records which might mention

your ancestors (town, parish, province, and nation). You will be most successful with Finnish research if you can examine the original records online or in digitized form. In some cases, transcripts of the original records are available. Although these may be easier to read, they may be less accurate than the original record.

As you search original records your Finnish ancestors, most of your time will be spent searching Finnish Church Records. A knowledge of what records were kept and their availability will help greatly.

Finnish Websites

<http://hiski.genealogia.fi/historia/index.htm>

HisKi is a database of births, marriages, and migration maintained by the Genealogical Society of Finland

Suomen Sukutkimusseura This is the Genealogical Society of Finland Facebook group

Finland Origins <https://lastnames.myheritage.com/finland/meaning>

Finland, Passport Registers, 1900-1920, Database. <https://familysearch.org> Kept by various provincial and municipal governments in Finland

Finland Baptisms 1657-1890 at FamilySearch index only (free)

Finland Communion Books 1670-1917 at Ancestry Index & images (\$)

Finland Pre-Confirmation Books 1670-1918 at Ancestry Index (\$) images

Finland Select Marriages 1682-1892 at Ancestry Index only (\$) also at MyHeritage (\$)

Finland Communion Death Books 1670-1917 at Ancestry Index & Images (\$)

Finland Pre-Confirmation Death Books 1670-1918 at Ancestry Index & Images (\$)

Finland Burials 1725-1909 at FamilySearch index only (free), also at Ancestry (\$), My Heritage (\$)

See Finland Headstone Database at Genealogical Society Finland; index and images

See Finland Church Census 1657-1915 at familysearch.org

Finland Church Records 1527-1921 at familysearch.org

Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Parish Records at Finnish National Archives index only

Finnish Church Census and Pre-Confirmation Books 1657-1915 at familysearch.org index

Finland Pre-Confirmation Books 1670-1918 at Ancestry index & images (\$) (Information found at FamilySearch.org) (Submitted by Susan Haga)

Researching In Norway

Norway is a Scandinavian country in Northern Europe bordered by Sweden, Finland, Russia, and Denmark. From 1814 to 1905 it was part of the Swedish-Norwegian Union. Norwegian is the official language.

If an ancestor emigrated from Norway, search for records where your ancestor settled. Censuses, Lutheran Church records, historical societies, land records, ad probate records are rich sources for family history.

Use details you glean from local records to search for immigration and emigration records. Use passenger lists, information about ports of entry and departure, ship names, age on arrival, and intended final destination. Bear in mind that people often traveled with their relatives. Find out as much as you can about when your ancestors arrived and where they came from.

Emigration and immigration sources list the names of people leaving (emigrating) or coming into (immigrating) a country. Norwegian emigration records can be useful source of genealogical information. They are usually found as passenger lists. There are some records of passports issued. The information in these records includes the emigrants' names, ages, occupations, destinations, and places of origin or birthplaces.

These sources can be very valuable in helping you determine where in Norway your ancestor came from. They can also help in constructing family groups. If you do not find your ancestor, you may find emigration information about your ancestor, you find emigration information about your ancestor's neighbors. People who lived near each other in Norway often settled together in the country they emigrated to. Fortunately, Norwegian emigration records are numerous. There are also some helpful records of Norwegian immigrants in the United States.

Use maps, gazetteers, and guides to locate the parish or the farm where your ancestor lived in Norway. Locating the parish farm is easy to do

once you've found the place of origin in Norway where an ancestor lived, was born, or married. Parish priests kept excellent records of parishioner movements and important life events. Records were duplicated by clerks or wardens, and one version of the record may be more legible than another.

Locate your ancestor in farm books (bygdeboker). Farm books are detailed local histories about each farm and include genealogical information about families, family connections, and dates that will help you positively identify your ancestors.

Parish registers list the farm name residences at the time of births, marriages, and deaths, so don't overlook this valuable resource. These important records document your ancestors' lives.

Continue using other records to learn more about them. Census in Norway, for example, were taken periodically. You can search these civil records as well as church records in the Digital Archives of Norway (Digitalarkivet). Use names, dates, and places, as well as farm names, to find the right record, in the right place, at the right time.

2020 County Mergers

On 1 January 2020 several counties were combined as part of an administrative reform. Nord-Trøndelag and Sor-Trøndelag were combined 1 January 2019. Four counties were unchanged.

Parishes in Norway

Knowing which parish your ancestors came from is vital to Norwegian research. The parish listing has been divided into subsections due to the size of each file. Each list is alphabetically organized according to the modern Norwegian standard which is: Regions, Clerical Districts, Parish List Norway A-H, Parish List Norway I-R, Parish List Norway S-T, Parish List Norway U-A.

The Norwegian government announced on December 20, 2017 that community names and boundaries will be changing effective 2020.

Granvin and Voss will combine and become Voss. Fjell, Sund and Oygarden will combine and will become Oygarden.

Jonda, Odda and Ullensvang will combine and become Ullensvang.

Balestrand, Leikanger and Sogndal will combine become Sogndal.

Fusa and Os will combine and become Bjornafjorden.

Eid and Selje will combine and become Stad.

Flora and Vagsoy will combine and become Kinn. Forde, Naustdal, Gaular and Jolster will combine and become Sunnfjord. (See Familysearch.org)

Norwegian Websites

National Archives Services of Norway

This free site's historical records make it one of the most useful Norwegian genealogy resources. You'll need to register with the site for free, which gets you advanced features. Under Using the Archives, click the link to Online Expositions, some of which are available in English. Checkout Norwegian Emigration to America 1825-1939. The exhibitions are in three parts: Norway, the Crossing and America. It includes Parish records, Censuses, Emigration records and address books which is similar to city directories, these books are great for locating individuals between census years.

Norway-Heritage: Hands Across the Sea

This website has especially helpful information for understanding Norwegian names—Given names, patronymics, farm names and more. Click on Those Norwegian Names, under Recommended Reading on the left. Searchable indexes include a growing database of pre-1875 Norwegian emigrants, lists of emigrant ships, agents and shipping lines; and emigrant ship arrivals reported in newspapers around the world (1870-1894).

FamilySearch.org www.familysearch.org

Go to the home page click Search and choose Wiki from the dropdown menu. Once in Family History Research Wiki, search for Norway. In the list of results click on Norway which provides topics for getting started and links to other helpful pages. Check out Norway Genealogy Online records found at this website.

YouTube.com www.youtube.com

You'll find a number of videos on YouTube to help you pickup Norwegian. Try typing learn Norwegian into the search box, then browsing through the snippets. Most shorts are under 5 minutes and completely free checkout That Norwegian Guy.

Norwegian Genealogical Society

It was founded on 22 October 1926 as the first exclusively Norwegian genealogical society located in Oslo, Norway. The organization also runs a genealogical library and their internal magazine is Genealogen. In 1927 the Norwegian Genealogical society launched (Norsk Slektshistorisk Tidsskrift as its official periodical in Norwegian or (NSF--for short). It has published more than 15,000 pages of information on Norwegian genealogy in its periodical. Click the publication link on the website to view an online index here.

Ancestry & History

Slekt & Historie—the Norwegian form of this site's name—by Johan Ingvald Borgos (a historian and a local history writer) and Marianne Froydis Pettersen (a genealogist) covers aids to Norwegian genealogy. The home page offers categorized links to more than 100 resources, with a key indicating whether the page is in Norwegian, English, or both. (Submitted by Susan Haga—some Information taken from familysearch.org)

Genealogy Humor

--Family tree Research is one giant step backwards and one giant step forward—usually at the same time.

--“Get your facts first, then you can distort them as you please.”—Mark Twain

--Great genealogist are time travellers

--Can a first cousin once removed be returned?

--After 30 days, unclaimed ancestors will be discarded or claimed by another family.

--An in-law is someone who has married into your family; an outlaw is an in-law who resists letting you do their genealogy

--Remember that when a family member passes away, they take a library of memories with them. It's a genealogist's duty to record them before that happens.

--If your family members won't talk about a particular relative, a seasoned genealogist knows they are keeping mum about very interesting.

--Moment of Truth for a genealogist: discovering you are your own cousin.

--If you don't know who the family black sheep is, it's probably you.

--The kind of ancestors you have is not as important as the kindness of their descendants.

--My ancestors are lost in the witness protection program.

--Many genealogists neglect telling their own stories, while in the midst of telling the stories about others. Don't let that happen to your family.

--Genealogy is like a magic mirror. Looking it, and pretty soon, interesting faces appear.

--Genealogists don't get Alzheimer's they just lose their census.

--Genealogical enigma: How so many published trees record people who died before they were born.

--Murphy's Law of Genealogy: Your ancestor's maiden name will be recorded on the one record page that is missing!

--I love history, but I dislike genealogy.” Don't you want to tell these people that genealogy is family history.