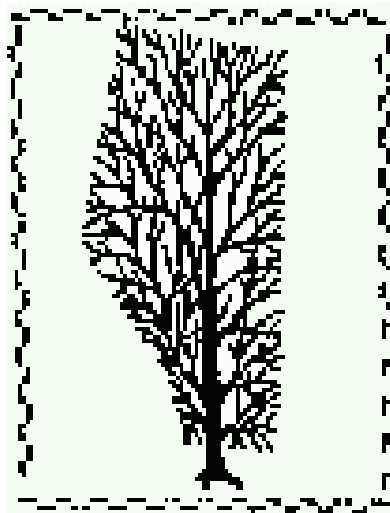


**YESTERDAY'S FOOTPRINTS**  
**Alberta Genealogical Society**  
**Lethbridge and District Branch**  
**Vol. 42 No. 2**  
**May 2025**  
**ISSN 0836-5319**



**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Editors Corner	2
AGS Branch Hours	2
Executive Committee	2
President's Message	2-3
Monthly Meetings	3
GenFair & AGM	3-4
Lethbridge Family History Centre	4
AI and Genealogy Research	4-5
10 Must Haves for Genealogy & Family History Success	5-9
How To Write a Family History	9-11
Old Occupations That May No Longer Exist	11
Genealogy Humour "Quotes"	11



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 [lethags@theboss.net](mailto:lethags@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 & Thursday 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 – 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

President	Barry Simmonds
Vice President	Julie Miller
Treasurer	Kieran Biggins
Secretary	Wendy Warren
Past President	Marilyn Astle

#### **BRANCH COMMITTEE**

Archivist	Len Ross
Casino Contact	Doug McLeod
Cemetery	Eleanor McMurchy
Computer Tech Support	Doug McLeod
Facebook Group	Marilyn Astle, Eleanor McMurchy
Library	Wendy Warren/Brian Dobing
Membership	Kieran Biggins
Newsletter Editor	Susan Haga
Obit Committee	Eleanor McMurchy /BevTufts, /Alma & Charles Berridge
Programs	Velda Sjevold
Publicity/Res Centre	Win Evans
Volunteer Hours	Doug McLeod
Web Master	Doug McLeod
Youth Rep	Susan Haga
Advisory Group	Marilyn Astle John Squarek Doug McLeod, Eleanor McMurchy, Pat Barry Phyllis Burnett, Win Evans

### **President's Message**

Here it is time for another message for Yesterday's Footprints. I'd like to thank all the members who made a contribution to last month's YF edition. There is a lot of great stories on what led the members to join AGS. Again thank you to the editors (Wendy, Julie and myself), for putting it together. The members helped to fill the pages due to Susan's illness.

The last 4 months were very busy for our Branch. A special thanks to all the volunteers who worked 607 hours up to the end of March. April was also a very busy month for volunteering. In January we opened the library in the second week. Reorganization of the library inventory and shelving was on-going. We did sell some books to a vendor in Ontario. Barry attended a New Year's celebration by the Metis Association and did sign up one new member. We had a couple of requests to help with research. The Legacy Group started up again, meeting on Mondays. Google Workspace training was on-going. We started by signing up the executive and the programmer coordinator was set in place. New email addresses and drives were assigned to each. Also a new general information address was setup [info@leth-abgenealogy.ca](mailto:info@leth-abgenealogy.ca). The implementation of the Google Workspace was set in place for ease of access to all branch records and information thus allowing us to have information available to the next incoming officer(s).

At our monthly meeting our guest speaker was Dale Leffingwell talking about Local History around Cardston and area. A proposal to change the meeting times was presented at the meeting. The President sent out a survey to the members and the response was for the meeting and presentations to be held in the afternoon. In February, we held our Annual General Meeting and elections. There were no changes in the executive—Barry Simmonds as President, Julie Miller as Vice President, Kieran Biggins as Treasurer, Wendy Warren as Secretary. We had a social time after the meeting. Julie volunteered to take on the membership chair. Len is still the Archivist. We were still busy working on the library reorganization and planning on purchasing a new scanner printer. It is still up for more research to meet our needs. This is also due to an increase in our membership and appeal to the younger generation, that our website needs updating and

renewal. Doug and Barry attended webinars to plan for website development. We have a plan to carry this out. Just this last week Barry took Canva training which we could utilize to help develop the website.

In March at our monthly meeting, we had Marilyn give a presentation on “Using Wikitree to Preserve Your Research.” Kieran did some research for a couple of inquiries on the family trees. In April, we had Elaine Toth do a presentation on “How to Prepare your Oral History”. We had 2 new members join our Branch. Also we had an invitation to attend a meet and greet of other volunteer groups. We could not attend. We had a few members attend the AGM and the GenFair put on by the Red Deer Branch and the LDS Local Family History Center.

May was another busy month for our Branch. I would like to once again thank all the volunteers that have kept our little branch operating. We held our Annual BBQ picnic on June 14th. This had been changed to a lunch potluck. We had a good turn out. --President—Barry Simmonds

### **Monthly Meetings**

Our AGM was held in February. It was an in-person meeting with about 22 members in attendance. After the AGM, we had a member’s social with food and refreshments for us to visit with one another after meeting so long on zoom. It was nice to see the members and hear their laughter. We’ve not experienced that for some time. We missed our out-of-town members. Thanks to Alma who suggested this idea.

Marilyn Astle gave a presentation for our March Meeting on “Using Wikitree to Preserve our Research”. Marilyn showed us a live demonstration on the appeal of this website, some of the tools, the respect for copyright and the member engagement options. We are always pleased when our members share their knowledge of a genealogical skill.

Our April meeting welcomed Elaine Toth she gave a presentation on “How to Prepare Your Families Oral History”. Elaine shared with us who and where to interview our family members, the techniques and skills of how to make them feel comfortable and how to introduce them to your questions. She showed us some recording technology and tips to make sure you end up with a good recording.

For our May 15<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting our speaker was Allan Whidden who spoke on “Building and Maintaining Ancestral Links is Fundamental to Understanding Our Own Identity”. Allan used FamilySearch to guide us through a presentation. Allan is one of our new members we appreciated him in offering to share this information with us.

Kathy (and Gary) Stauffer one of our branch members graciously invited Lethbridge Branch members for a potluck afternoon of food and refreshments and visiting at our annual BBQ held on June 14<sup>th</sup>. There were 15-20 people in attendance. (Written by Velda Sjovold)

### **GenFair and AGM**

GenFair this year was put on by Red Deer Branch and Red Deer Family History Centre. It was held on Sat., April 26th at LDS Church in Red Deer.

Presentations that were given were: DNA, Metis Genealogy, Ontario Research, Home Children, Investigative Research and AI and Genealogy. There were about 75 people in attendance. The AGM was held at 3:00 p.m. for AGS members in the Cultural Hall. For those who were not AGS members they met in the Relief Society Room.

A lot of awards were given. Hans Henning won a 25<sup>th</sup> years of service award. They announced the passing of Pat Barry this past year. Alice Hoyle won the President’s award! Wetaskiwin Branch won a number of awards for the Kenneth Young Newsletter Award. A special mention award was awarded to Susan Haga for her many years of service as the Retreat Committee Chair for her leadership. The Provincial Executive had a couple of changes: Lianne Kruger is the President, Craig Newman as First V.P., David Clark from Brooks was nominated and put in as 2<sup>nd</sup> V.P., and Laurianne Schell was put in as Provincial Secretary at the June 14<sup>th</sup> board meeting! She is a member of the AGS Calgary Branch. The AGM went overtime this year and concluded at 5:30 p.m. (Written by Susan Haga)

### **Lethbridge Family History Centre**

**New Location:** 2410 28<sup>th</sup> Street SE

Family History Centre Hours: Monday: 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Tuesdays closed, Wednesday: 9:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. then 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Thursday 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., Friday & Saturday closed. The Family History Centre will be closed for the summer. Their phone number is 403 327-6797.

## AI and Genealogy Research

### What is AI and How Does it Work?

AI or artificial intelligence is actually computer programming that mimics human intelligence. AI can do things like recognize images and create something new using patterns learned from something old, and change information it gives based on what it receives—as if it were making a decision.

AI technology can be used to do lots of tasks quickly, see patterns that not all people would spot easily, and do tasks that are too, well—boring—for humans to want to do them.

There are a lot of technical words that come up when talking about AI. Machine Learning: NLP (natural language processing), OCR (optical character recognition) and handwriting recognition.

### How Can AI Be Used for Genealogy

While the science behind artificial intelligence might seem complicated, understanding how AI can help in genealogy is not. This technological innovation can be quite helpful in your family history research and also in learning about your family.

Here are some things many organizations and genealogists use AI for with genealogy work.

#### Transcribing Records:

Records are difficult to search manually, and many are old and difficult to read. AI can help transcribe record images—including those that are handwritten—so you can more easily search and read them.

#### Analyzing Images:

Identifying faces in old photos has never been easier, thanks to artificial intelligence. AI is also used to organize, colorize, repair, and label photos.

#### Matching Data:

If you are looking for a specific person over multiple documents or databases, AI can help combine and search across datasets. This type of AI also helps provide record suggestions that may result in rich additional details about an ancestor.

### Construction Family Trees:

AI can suggest relatives to add to a family tree, by identifying similar information and relationships.

### Telling Stories:

Stories help you know your family's past and with AI, you can breathe life into the past. AI can help transcribe recorded stories, transform dry details into a story or biographical format, and suggest historical context for an ancestor's life events. If you're into augmented reality, it can even generate video or audio avatars of your ancestors.

### Translation:

If your ancestor's records or journals are in a different language than you speak, AI translation can help you get a glimpse at the information that they hold.

### Can I Use ChatGPT for Genealogy

You might have heard of the popular AI system called ChatGPT. Within the bounds of genealogy, people can use ChatGPT, Microsoft Copilot and other generative AI systems to assist in writing family stories, generate illustrations, and ask general questions about the life of your ancestors.

1. Can you help me interpret the text of a family document?
2. Can you analyze surname origins and variations?
3. What are some online databases where I can find historical records relevant to my family history?
4. Can you help me contextualize the life of an ancestor within historical events and societal trends?
5. I have a lot of genealogical data. Can you help me organize the data into a timeline?
6. Can you help me craft a story about a family member with the genealogy records that I have?

### How to Use AI for Family History Experience

Generative tools like ChatGPT can create impressive writing about many topics! In addition to being a useful writing aid, AI can be a tool for facilitating a variety of family history experiences. Learn how to use AI effectively in a way to help you brainstorm engaging activities, collect and adapt family stories, create activity books, and get your own family involved with family history! (Submitted by Susan Haga some of this information has been taken from Familysearch.org)

## **10 Must Haves for Genealogy and Family History Success**

Thomas Macentee, of Genealogy Bargains  
<https://www.genealogybargains.com>  
hidefgen@gmail.com

Whether you're just "dabbling" in genealogy and researching your roots, or you've become a "hardcore lifer" obsessed with "the hunt," there are basic skills that family historians of all levels have in common. We'll review those skills that can help you find success researching online or in-person.

### **Is There a RIGHT WAY to do GENEALOGY?**

I've never liked living in a "black and white" world where there are only two ways of doing something. Telling another genealogist that they aren't doing it "right" can quickly turn a misunderstanding into a battle royale.

However, I do think there are some BASICS of genealogy and family history research that should be learned and employed so that we aren't just "playing around." Sites like Ancestry have "gamified" genealogy so it is fun to build family trees, click on hunts, add information, etc. But are you really building a legacy and leaving a solid body of work for your future generations?

### **The 10 Must Haves**

My list of "must haves" for genealogy is one I think most genealogists can agree with.

#### **A Sense of Purpose**

Seriously consider why you want to search for your ancestors and know more about your family history. Take into account how many years you've been doing this; how much time you spend each week researching, and how much money you spend each year going to conferences, society meetings, ordering copies of records and subscribing to websites. It's so easy to bounce from thing to thing and never really have anything to show for your investment of time and money. Having one big goal such as "I'm going to write a book about the MacEntee family history" is admirable but it might be too big and overwhelming. Start with small goals: "I'm going to write a two-page biographical sketch on Elmer MacEntee, my great grandfather." Then more small goals

and pretty soon you'll find you can string them together into that one big goal!

### **Communication Skills**

Why Can't We All Just Get Along? **You think it** would be simple especially since the genealogy community is generally known for as a dedicated and an intelligent group of researchers all focused on a similar goal: finding our ancestors. Yet researchers are people and as such little things like the ego and even misinformation or lack of knowledge can be like sand in the gears of the genealogy machine.

It all comes down to COMMUNICATION.

Whether dealing with family members, cousins of whom I've never met before, or archivists and librarians, I always try to remember the five Cs:

**Clear, Concise, Complete, Congenial and Compensation.**

### **Writing Skills**

I was fortunate enough to become a good writer in high school and a better writer in college. In genealogy don't feel pressured to write a long "proof" argument like those you see in society journals. Employ the KISS concept: Keep It Simple, Stupid. I contend that you can compose a written proof of an ancestor's birth date or birth location in 50 words or less and still follow guidelines set out by professional genealogy societies and associations.

In addition, learn to master whatever writing application you are using whether it is MS Word, Google Docs, etc. Once you acquire those skills, you'll have an easier time documenting your researching efforts as well as getting those family stories in a fixed and written format.

### **Genealogy Research Toolbox**

Have you ever sat down in front of your home computer prepared to start some genealogy research and "bam" and you can't find that wonderful website or resource you used last week or last month? Wouldn't it be great if you could build your own little toolbox of research resources that you could use anywhere? Building a research toolbox with your own favorite links, books, articles and more is what you need. A personalized research toolbox not only can help you locate "info" about your ancestors, but it's a great way to share resources with your fellow genealogists.

- 1) **Containers:** Think of a physical toolbox, perhaps made of metal or plastic. Which design would work best for you? Large or small? With a handle? Lots of small drawers inside for items? For a “research” toolbox especially one with lots of links to websites, consider a container where you can organize your browser “bookmarks.” A big consideration is portability.
- 2) **Content:** Think of what you’d want to have at your fingertips during genealogical research. Are you constantly going to Google to search for something like a list of old occupation names or abbreviations for given names? If you already had these website links in your research toolbox, imagine the amount of time you could save?

### **Organization Skills**

If you’re a beginning genealogist you want to research “the right way” and if you’re an intermediate one, you probably have already learned from your early mistakes. While some would argue as to what is “correct” we would probably all agree on these points as what a research log could and should do.

### **Creating An Action Plan**

Many genealogists have some sort of research plan whether it is written down or in their heads. A research log can help you fine tune that research plan and convert it into an action plan. For many of us that is the challenge. . . getting from “What I want to look for” to “Oh, look what I’ve found!”

### **Keep You Organized**

Do you spend hours just bouncing around on ancestry.com or on another website? What about in-person at a repository . . . do you use your time wisely or just go from resource to resource? A research log can not only help you organize your research finds, but also identify areas where you need to do more research.

**Allow Instant Recall.** Even if you are successful at finding the records and information that you need in genealogy, what

good is it if you can’t locate that information easily and quickly? Especially if you store your finds on a computer, it helps to have a “map” to where all that stuff is! Use links and entries in a research log to find items fast.

**Reduce “do-overs.”** There is nothing worse than spending time researching only to find out that you had that particular record. A research log lets you know where you’ve been and where you should be spending your time.

**Help Analyze Data.** If you’ve located several different records related to an ancestor’s marriage, how can you really analyze all the information and come to a conclusion if you can’t see all the details all at once? A research log lets you sort by fields or by column headings and also search by specific keywords so you can easily analyze results.

### **Evidence Evaluation Skills**

Have you ever looked closely at vital records such as a birth or death certificates? I mean REALLY close...every line, front and back, every stray mark? That is what we should do as genealogists but many of us get caught up in the excitement of the find that our eyes only gravitate towards what we feel matters at the time. The following fields can be used when working with The Board of Certification of Genealogists Skill Building: Guidelines for Evaluating Genealogical Resources.

**Source Type:** A source is Original if it is the first written statement, photograph, or recording of an event. Subsequent copies are Derivative and may be reproduced by hand, machine, camera or scanner; they may be reproduced on paper, or in microform, as photographs or digital images, or in any medium that records the image whether transcribed by hand or technology.

**Clarity:** Use Clear if the information can be easily read. Use Marginal if information is not clear, is partially obscured and researcher must “guess” at words or letters.

**Information Type:** Use Primary if a piece of information is recorded by a knowledgeable eyewitness or participant in that event, or by an official whose duties require him or her to make an accurate record of the event when it occurs. Use Secondary information if it is supplied by someone who was not at the event and may include errors

caused by memory loss or influenced by other parties who may have a bias or be under emotional stress.

**Evidence Type:**

Direct evidence is any fact that is explicitly stated. Indirect evidence is inferred from one or more pieces of evidence within the record.

**Source Citation Skills**

When I first learned about source citations, I didn't believe they were necessary. I thought they were a waste of time. Over time I realized their importance!

**Establish Proof:**

Cited material gives credibility to a fact or relationship while proving a connection.

**Determine Reliability of Evidence:** Some sources are more reliable and make a stronger proof. Compare points of evidence based on their source.

**Track Records and Resources:** Easily go back and locate records and their repository. This is effective when the original record or a copy is lost.

**Expand Research:** When encountering a difficult area of research, look for sources that were successful in making a proof and check them again.

**Discover Conflicts:** Locate contradictions in existing research or when new evidence is found.

**Understand The Research Process:** When using another researcher's work, sources can give a glimpse at how that research was developed.

**Placeholders:** Pick up a research project where you left off by looking at source citations.

**Tech Skills**

Even for a "techie" like me it isn't easy to keep up with the latest genealogy technology. A great way to stay up-to-date is to visit the Roots Tech website and sign-up for their e-

newsletter. And also attend the free virtual portion of Roots Tech each year!

One bit of advice on updating technology: never go for the latest and the greatest. Never be an ".0" person. Well, when a new version of genealogy software comes out—like Version 8.0—don't run to update your copy even if it is free. I've found that most ".0" versions of software and apps have bugs and glitches. Wait for the version 8.1 which usually is available a few weeks after the ".0" version. You'll have a better upgrade experience and why should you be a bug fixer for that company?

**A Sense of Fun**

I'm sure anything we genealogists find enjoyable like indexing records on FamilySearch or transcribing an old letter from an ancestor will appear just plain weird and nerdy to your family.

For me, each time I am doing my genealogy I ask myself "Thomas, is this fun?" And if it isn't I move on to perhaps a different ancestor or a different task. I don't mean to say that you should avoid the menial tasks, but look for balance between what MUST be done and what CAN be done...and go for the fun stuff!

**A Sense of Legacy**

I strongly believe that the 45 years I've spent doing genealogy should have something to show for that time and effort. What if my family isn't interested and I don't have a family member who wants to inherit my work. At the very least when my "expiration date" arrives, I will have already donated my research to one or more genealogy libraries and societies, or have left instructions with my family on how to dispose of my research.

**What If I Did It WRONG?**

Finally, how can you do it WRONG if there is no RIGHT WAY in genealogy? And even after reviewing the 10 must haves above, you've noticed something you've done wrong, it is easy to fix. Like evidence evaluation ...just review the section above, look at the Resource List below and set a reasonable goal for yourself like "spend an hour learning the best way to evaluate a historical document," and just do it! That small time and effort investment will really pay off as you continue your genealogy journey researching!

## Resources

### Genealogy Bargains

#### Genealogy Cheat Sheet

<https://www.genealogybargains.com/genealogy-cheat-sheets/>

### Sense of Purpose

#### 10 Ways to Jumpstart Your Genealogy

<https://www.genealogybargains.com/syllabus-jumpstart>

### Evidence Evaluation

#### Evidence Explained Website

<https://www.evidenceexplained.com>

#### The Genealogical Proof Standard

<https://www.bcgcertification.org/ethics-standards/>

### Source Citations

#### Evidence Explained Website

<https://www.evidenceexplained.com>

### Writing Skills

#### BCG Resources on Key Skills

<https://www.bcgcertification.org/learningskills>

### Genealogy Research Toolbox

#### Cyndi's List

<https://www.cyndislist.com>

#### FamilySearch Digital Library

<https://www.familysearch.org>

#### Genealogy Research Toolbox

<http://www.genealogytoolbox.weekly.com>

#### Google Bookmarks

<https://www.google.com/bookmarks>

#### Google Books

<https://www.books.google.com>

#### Wolfram Alpha

<https://www.wolframalpha.com>

## Organization Skills

### Genealogy Research Log-Microsoft Excel

<https://www.genealogybargains.com/genreslog>

### Trello

<https://www.trello.com>

### Tech Skills

#### Roots Tech

<https://www.familysearch.org>

### Sense of Fun

#### 10 Ways to Jumpstart Your Genealogy

<https://www.genealogybargains.com/syllabus-jumpstart>

(© 2024 Thomas Macentee)

### How to Write a Family History

Every genealogist, beginner or professional, starts a research project by gathering 3 main facts for each family member: birth date, marriage date, and death date. We all know, though, that there is a lot more to be learned about a person's life than just these events. In creating a family history we need to write down a family history that is both accurate and interesting.

1. Start with the facts you already have about your ancestor and their family.
2. Organize these facts into a timeline.
3. Determine the scope of your family history.
4. Conduct some family oral histories by interviewing your family to add more details to your family history.
5. As you continue doing your research expand your timeline with new information.
6. Turn your timeline into a story outline.
7. Write your main ancestors story down.
8. Take the time to double check every fact.
9. Reach out to extended family to add interesting details to your family history.



10. Share your history with other family members by creating a huge family history that you can share with others either by a family history website or by writing a book.

Family history stories are important because they allow you to take all the hard-earned research you've conducted and make it more interesting and accessible to others. Someone is much more likely to want to read a short biography than looking at simple facts. The process will also help you better understand your ancestor or ancestors and identify holes in your research. Once you've shared your family history with other extended family members they will be able to help you identify areas you may have overlooked.

### **Family History Interview Questions**

1. What is your full name?
2. Did your parents name you after anyone in your family?
3. When were you born (give time of day if possible.)
4. Were you born in a hospital or at home and what were the circumstances surrounding your birth?
5. What city and province or state were you born in?
6. What is your mother's full name and her date of birth and where was she born.
7. What is your father's full name and his date of birth and where was he born?
8. Do you know your mother's parent's names and their date of birth and where they were born?
9. Do you know your father's parent's names and their dates of birth and where they were born?
10. What was your father's occupation? Did he stay with that profession or change as the years went along?
11. Did your mother work outside of the home? Did she work before she married? What did she do?
12. When did your parents marry and how did they meet?
13. What kind of work did your grandparents do? Were they farmers or did they work in another profession in town?
14. Where did your paternal grandparents live?
15. Where did your maternal grandparents live?

16. Did you know them or did they live far away from where you and your family lived?
17. What special memories do you have of your grandparents?
18. Did your grandparents pass away before you had a chance to meet them?
19. What memories do you have about your great grandparents? When did they pass away?
20. What memories do you have about your mother from your childhood?
21. What memories do you have about your father during your childhood?
22. What kind of legacy did your family pass down to you?
23. What family stories or memories were passed down to you from your parents and grandparents?
24. Were there any special family heirlooms that were passed down to you?
25. What is your first childhood memory?
26. Did you have any siblings?
27. Can you describe your siblings, their names and where they were born?
28. Are you the oldest child, youngest or the middle child?
29. Were you close to your siblings and how did that impact you?
30. Who was your best friend(s) and how did you spend your time with them?
31. Where did you live as you were growing up? Did your family move around a lot?
32. What was your childhood home(s) like?
33. Did you share a room with a sibling?
34. Did you have running water? If not did you have a well?
35. Where did you get your food from? Was it home grown on a farm or did you have a garden? Or did you go into a town grocery store?
36. Did you have any pets growing up? Did you have a favourite one?
37. Describe what your daily life was like as a child? Did you have chores you had to do when you were younger? Did they change as you grew older?
38. How far did you have to travel to school? Did you have to walk, take a school bus or perhaps ride a horse?
39. What was the most important training that you received in the home?
40. What did you want to do when you grew up? Did it change after you left high school?
41. Did you have any favourite hobbies? How did you spend your free time?
42. How did your family spend their time?

43. Did you have a close friend as a child that you grew up with kept in contact with over the years?
44. What was your favourite holiday or special occasion that you celebrated with your family?
45. What was your family's religion? Where did you attend your church?
46. What was your first job? How old were you then?
47. How many years of school did you attend?
48. Did you go to university? Did you get a degree? What did you study?
49. What was your original occupation? Have you had other professions over the years?
50. Did you ever get married?
51. How did you meet your spouse?
52. How did you get engaged?
53. What was your wedding like? Where was it held? What did you wear that day?
54. Did you go on a honeymoon afterwards?
55. What is your spouse's full name? Who were his siblings and their parents?
56. What did he do for a living? What are his interests?
57. What was your first home like together? Did you rent or buy it? Where was it located?
58. Do you have any children?
59. What are the names of your children and their birth dates and the names of their spouses?
60. Where did you live when your kids were growing up? Did you move around much?
61. What was your home like when your children were young?
62. What was your favourite way to spend time with your children and your family?
63. Did your family attend church together?
64. Were you part of any clubs or organizations?
65. Where have you travelled in your life? What place was your favourite?
66. What major world events have happened in your life? Did any have a big effect on you?
67. What accomplishments are you most proud of in your life?
68. What would you say are your greatest talents?
69. Which personal events in your life would you say had the greatest impact on you?
70. What do you want your family to remember most about you? (Submitted by Susan Haga, Info. taken from family history handouts from class I taught.)

## **Old Occupations That No Longer Exist**

Occupations that may no longer exist due to societal changes, and technological advances or shifts in economic structures. Many historical occupations were tied to agricultural, crafts or specific industries that have become obsolete. Knowing about these occupations can assist us in our genealogical research.

### **Crafts and Trades**

Blacksmith: Made and repaired metal tools.

Bowyer: Made bows.

Carpenter: Built and repaired wooden structures.

Chandler: Made and sold candles.

Cobbler: Repaired shoes.

Cooper: Made barrels and casks.

Farrier: Cared for horses hooves.

Potter: Created pottery and other ceramic items.

Stone Mason: Worked with stone for building and sculpting hides.

Tanner: Processed animal hides into leather.

Turner: Turned wood on a lathe to create spindles and other items.

Wainwright: Made and repaired wagons.

Wheelwright: Made and repaired wheels.

### **Service & Labour:**

Beadle: Assisted religious services and parish affairs.

Crossing Sweeper: Kept streets clean.

Knocker-Upper: Woke people up for work.

Lamp Lighters: Lit and maintained gas street lamps.

Manciple: Managed provisions for an institution.

Projectionist: Operated movie projectors.

Scribe: Copied documents before printing was common.

Switchboard Operator: Connected telephone calls manually.

Tax Collector: Collected taxes for government and landowners.

Tide Waiter: A customs inspector.

Tipstaff: A policeman or constable.

Verger: Assisted in religious services, especially in services.

### **Agriculture and Farming**

Agricultural Labourer: Worked on farms, tending crops and livestock.

Animal Husbandry: Cared for farm animals.

Farm Baliff: Was historically a manager or supervisor on a landed estate, overseeing farm operations and sometimes collecting rent from tenant farmers.

## **Other Occupations:**

Apothecary: Prepared and dispensed medicines.  
Barber-Surgeon: A barber who also performed some surgical procedures.

Bellows Mender: Repaired bellows for blacksmiths and other trades.

Chaff Cutter: Cut straw into chaff for animal feed.

## **Resources for Researching Occupations in Family History:**

### **Apprentice Records:**

These records describe the terms of apprenticeships, including the various trades.

**Census Records:** These records often list an individual's occupation at the time that the census was taken.

### **City Directories:**

City Directories can provide information on occupations in different areas depending on the City they are found in. Check the business section of City Directories. Lots of business owners listed there.

### **Military Records:**

Military records show occupations your ancestor may have held in the military.

### **Obituaries:**

Obituaries may mention the deceased profession and provide an outline of their life.

**Online Resources:** Don't forget online resources found at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) to learn about some of these older occupations and professions.

### **Original Surnames:**

Surnames often can offer clues about your ancestor's profession(s). For example, surnames such as Baker, Smith, Carter, and Fisher to name a few.

### **Tombstones Records:**

Tombstones may mention occupation or professions particularly for prominent individuals in the community for example for Doctors, Dentists, Apothecary Owners and etc.

**Wills and Probate Records:** Wills may list professions of male and female ancestors such as doctors, nurses, and teachers, and seamstresses.

## **Important Notes**

--Many of these occupations are specific to certain regions or time periods.

--The line between some occupations could be blurred. For example, a Barber-Surgeon might also be a Barber.

--Some occupations, like "Blacksmith" or "Farmer", evolved with time and technology, but still remain in some form. (Submitted By Susan Haga)

## **Genealogy Humour**

1. "There are only two lasting bequests we can give our children – one is roots, and the other is wings."

--Hodding S. Carter

2. "Preserve your memories, keep them well, what you forget you can never retell." --Louisa May Alcott

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

4. "Remember me in the family tree; my name, my days, my strife. Then I'll ride upon the wings of time and live an endless life." --Linda Goetsch

5. "He who has no fools, knaves, or beggars in his family was begot by a flash of lightning." --Old English Proverb

6. "To forget one's ancestors is to be like a brook without a source, a tree without a root." --Chinese Proverb

7. "The greatest inheritance you can pass onto your children and grandchildren is more than the money or material possessions you get. It's a legacy of both character and faith." --Billy Graham

8. "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

9. "It is a desirable thing to be well descended, but the glory belongs to his ancestors." --Plutarch

10. "Those who do not look upon themselves as a link, connecting the past with the future, do not perform their duty to the world." Daniel Webster

11. "Stories have to be told or they die, and when they die, we can't remember who we are or why we're here." --Sue Monk Kidd

12. Couldn't find my one ancestor anywhere then I finally realised that he was lost in the witness protection program! (Submitted by Susan Haga)