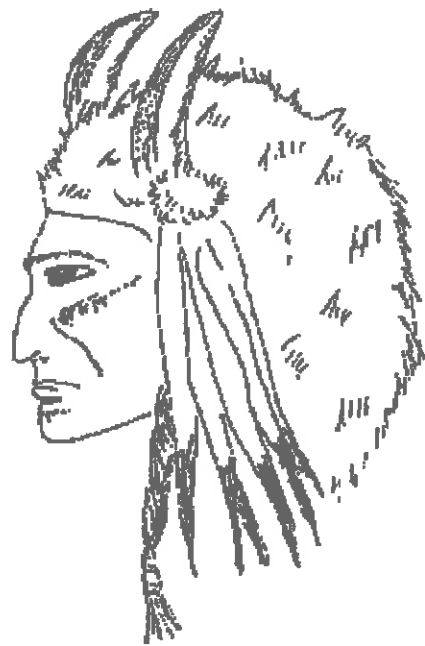


Medicine Hat and District Branch
Alberta Genealogical Society



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NEW EXECUTIVE FOR 1997 NAMED

Elections for the 1997 executive were held at our regular society meeting on Wednesday November 6, 1996. We would like to welcome the new executive. President Edie Pinder, 1st Vice President Gordon Bruins, 2nd Vice President Myra Anderson, and Treasurer Fern Muirhead. We would also like to thank Past President Betty Padfield, Past 1st Vice President Deb Phillips, and Treasurer for many years, Kathy Gleisner. Committee heads remain the same. Thank you all for your continuing efforts.

The Editor

Our Society is sorry to be losing one of its members. Deb Phillips has accepted a job offer in Korea. We wish her all the best in her new endeavor and hope she keeps in touch. Good Luck Deb from all of us. We will all miss you.

BESSARABIA RESEARCH

By Ferdinand Schwab

In the last five or six years, I have done a great deal of research of Bessarabia. I came from there with my parents at the age of five. This was on January 1 1928. I started family research about six years ago. I have read almost all the L.D.S. microfilms available of Bessarabia. At the beginning, I made several mistakes that cost me much time and effort. I had to recheck many of my films. I will try to give you some hints that might help your research. You will notice that on some of the films it says L.S. (left side), and R.S. (right side). In the case of marriage records, the left side gives the name of the bride and groom. At the beginning there is a column giving the date of engagement. Don't mistake this for the marriage date. However, there are times when the heading has been overwritten with the word trauing (marriage). In that case, that is the correct marriage date. Many times the year of the event is not found on the left page. It is important that you mark the location of this event on the page. For instance, first down, second down etc. This is so that you can find the right couple on the right side. Also make sure you have the page number. At times the age of the person when married is given on the left side. Other times it will be on the right side. There are also some films with only the left side on the film and the right side on another film. In that case it is smart to order both films at the same time.

In the beginning I did not bother with the Godparents. I found this to be a mistake. As a rule the Godparents were siblings either of the father or mother. This sometimes is a helpful clue to what family these belonged to.

In most cases the marriage record will give the name of the groom's or bride's father, but not the mother. This can make it difficult to tell which family they belong to. However, in some cases you will find a number in a column behind the event. This number often serves as an address. It usually refers to a family group record. It either represents the page number or the farm number. This often gives you a clue to what family the person belongs to. The difficulty arises when the family has so many relatives with the same first name.

Another problem I have found is when the film is partly in Russian. Around 1900 the schools and churches were forced to keep their records in Russian. In most of these cases the German name was inserted in brackets. However, I miss a lot of the data. The months are also in Russian. I have traced the Russian months and translated them to English. This has helped me to a great extent. I have also traced numerous Russian names and given them

English translations. There are still some that I have not been able to find. This is quite helpful in some of the family group records. They will have the first children listed in German until near 1900. Then they are in Russian, without the German translation. I have been able to translate most of my names. The other alternative is to hire somebody that reads Russian. In my case the expense is prohibitive.

Lately the L.D.S. church has installed a film and microfiche copy machine. This is a great help. For instance if you have a family group record with mixed language, it can be copied. Then you find somebody (preferably a friend) who will read it for you without charge!

You might have trouble finding some locations that you are looking for. For instance there were many locations with the prefix 'Chutor'. This means estate. There were many large Russian estates. The owners would rent the land out to willing farmers with a long term lease. However, these places were never declared official villages (dorfs). Then there were the places with the prefix 'Gut'. This also was a large tract of land. These were often bought in later years by a group of German settlers. Then also there were the Hectare Communities. These were mostly established after the Agrareform in about 1920. This Reform came into effect when Romania took over Bessarabia after World War I. The large land owners had to give up most of their land. They were only allowed to keep two or three hundred acres. They got a small compensation for their loss. Much of this land was given to renters who already occupied the land. They were given six hectares of land. This might have been enough at the time however, in more modern times it was almost impossible to support a family. These communities could not afford to build schools or churches. Therefore these communities were never listed on the maps.

You might find that in different documents the birth dates don't match. I was puzzled by this for a long time. Finally this is what I found:

In Bessarabia the calendar was moved ahead thirteen days on November 17, 1919 to December 1, 1919. I found that some parishes also moved the birth dates ahead thirteen days. This can be very confusing. If somebody was born near the end of the month, even the month would be changed. I met several people in Canada who said they had two birth dates! Not all parishes did this. I know that my parents families did not change their dates. Recently I borrowed a book with Katzbach records. This gives the records of all the original settlers in the first section. Then it gives a list of all the people that were resettled in Germany in 1940. Many of these names I had in my records. However, so many of the birth dates did not match. Then I remembered the calendar change. After that everything made more sense. In some cases where I did not have the original birth dates, I accepted the dates in the book.

Many of you might have received letters in the mail advertising your family names. These books even claim to have your family crest. Well I always took them to be a money making scam. However, about a year ago, I saw a copy of a Beierbach Book. In this book were Beierbachs from different countries. The most of them were from Canada. These names all had addresses. Well, I copied about 30 Beierbach names with addresses from Germany. I wrote to nine of these addresses at a time. I gave them about four generations of my Beierbachs. To my surprise and joy I got answers from four so far. Three of them fit in with my wife's family. The fourth sent me a long list of about six generations. So far these do not fit in with my lines. However, I had some of these names in my notes. Some of them came from Horkheim, Germany where my wife's ancestors came from. This man wrote that his uncle is doing research on Beierbachs. His uncle lives near Stuttgart. That is where a lot of Bessarabian records are kept. Perhaps he can find a connection. All together I have written about 30 letters to Germany already. I am hoping to hear from some others. Two of my letters came back. Of course I wrote the letters in German. Two of these families do not understand a word of English.

FOUND ON THE INTERNET

Ancestors Series Overview

The Ancestor ten-part television series is scheduled for national release on PBS in January of 1997. The series is an introduction to genealogy and family history, focusing on the impact that connecting with ancestors has on individuals and families. Powerful stories of people who have made the connection to their family's past are followed by practical instruction on how to begin this journey of a lifetime.

Episode One: Getting Started Victor Villasenor grew up alienated and ashamed as a Mexican-American in Southern California. He felt disconnected, not American nor Mexican. He started to look to his past for answers and in his journey became whole. The episode dispels common misconceptions about genealogy and family history and introduces the pedigree chart as one of the most important tools that is used in searching for ancestors. Expert Desmond Allen explains how a pedigree chart is used to begin your family history today. It is as simple as starting with what you know.

Episode Two: Looking At Home. An Oregon farmhouse full of seven generations of artifacts held clues for divorcee Shannon Applegate who was looking for missing pieces to her life. In this ancestral home she found a pioneer heritage that gave her renewed strength and understanding about herself. What to look for at home, and how to organize these bits and pieces of your past is explored with expert Antonia Cottrell Martin.

Episode Three: Gathering Family Stories. A recent immigrant to the United States, Fabiana Chiu had a mixed feelings about her Chinese-Peruvian heritage. Wanting to know more, Fabiana traveled with her parents to Peru to interview living relatives. In her journey, she discovered traditions and links to her Chinese heritage that awakened a new understanding of her personal identity. Our expert, Bill Zimmerman will focus on how the novice can successfully interview and document living relatives.

Episode Four: The Paper Trail. Rafael Guber shares with many Americans the knowledge that his family first came to America through Ellis Island. Rafael's respect for this event in his ancestor's lives compelled him to recreate the Ellis Island experience with 100 descendants of immigrants in period clothing. This episode helps us understand how the records that we find are witness to important events in our ancestors lives. Our experts share the different types of records that are found in genealogical research.

Episode Five: Libraries and Archives. Tom Madrid found records of his Hispanic heritage in the United States dating back hundreds of years by starting at his local library in Colorado. Our hosts will tour the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, where people from around the world come to do genealogical research. They will introduce you to the different places to find genealogical records after you've exhausted resources at home, including city, state and national repositories that are most commonly used in genealogy.

Episode Six: Military and Census Records. Garry Bryant was in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. Instead of feeling patriotic towards his service, he felt removed, depressed, and ashamed. Through family history he discovers 27 ancestors who served their country in battle. As he learned of their sacrifices to serve, his image of country and self were forever changed. Our expert, Curt Witcher will introduce two major American records that are commonly used in genealogy searches. Census and military records and what you can find in them will be explained in this episode.

Episode Seven: African American Families. An unlikely bed of genealogical activity is found in South Central L.A. Collette DeVerge and the members of the California African American Genealogical Society share what family history and genealogy means to them. This episode focuses on the distinct challenge of researching African American records. Our expert, Tony Burroughs, will dispel myths about African American records and will introduce new information to help begin a successful search in this area.

Episode Eight: Your Medical Heritage. Carol Krause never imagined that her family history would save her life. Because Carol created a family medical pedigree documenting her ancestor's health, she was able to save

her life and the lives of her sisters with the knowledge she found. Our experts will help you learn how to begin building your own medical pedigree.

Episode Nine: High Tech Help. Hardened criminals and genealogy? We take you inside a prison to meet inmates who do genealogy with the help of computers and microfiche. Their stories will surprise you. Our expert will show you how you can find family history easier and more fun than ever with some high tech help.

Episode Ten: Leaving A Legacy tells the stories of three different legacies left by families in our country. The More Family has held reunions every five years since 1889. What is different about this family is that since 1915 they have preserved each family reunion on film. The inspiring legacy that Talula Bottoms left for her family in quilts is a quiet testament to her humility. Finally, Jazz Musician Hannibal Peterson who finds the lost grave of his slave ancestor celebrates in the discovery with his family in a musical tribute of dance and African ritual at the ancestral grave.

Frequently Asked Questions About Ancestors:

Will Ancestors be on my local PBS station?

The series will be distributed nationally by PBS. Each of the 351 member stations across the country will have access to the series. The Programming Director at each station will choose when and where to carry Ancestors.

Your station will become more aware of Ancestors as we come closer to the airdate of January 1997. Please refrain from calling your local PBS member station with questions now.

When will Ancestors be on the air?

Ancestors will be available to PBS stations beginning in January, 1997.

Will I be able to buy a copy of the series on VHS?

In addition to the 10-part series, which will be made available on videocassette, a companion book and multi-media package will be available for purchase. More information about these exciting Ancestors products will be included on our web site in the coming months.

DID YOU KNOW?

For people researching in early Ontario. Microfilm # 0862286 is on Indefinite loan to our local LDS Family History Library. This film contains George Walton's City of Toronto & Home District Commercial Directory and Register for 1837; Brown's Toronto City & Home District Directory for 1846-7; Caverhill's Toronto City Directory for 1859-60; and C. E. Anderson & Co's Toronto City Directory for 1868-69.

For all internet users - Both Canada Post and US Postal Service can be found on the web. Postal rates within, as well as outside the country are included at both sites. The US Postal Service site also has addresses for post offices throughout the US. Check them out.

Canada Post <<http://www.mailposte.ca/english/enghome.html>>

US Postal Service <<http://www.usps.gov/>>

LIBRARY REPORT

by Betty Padfield

We continue to get the usual newsletters and have just recently ordered a book on Medical records in England.

The Kingston Branch newsletter has an interesting article on researching Divorce records, as well as addresses for internet researching.

The Saskatchewan Newsletter has an article on searching Indian and Metis ancestors. Also a 1911 Canada's voters list. There is an article about NWMP -RCMP lists of members.

The Halton Peel newsletter has an article on Draft guide to Criminal Justice records of Ontario Archives. And an interesting article about our ancestors going to the States.

Check out the various newsletters, they contain a wealth of information to help us in our ongoing search for our ancestors.

ABBREVIATIONS FOR THE BEGINNER GENEALOGIST

Submitted by Edith Pinder

ab, abt	about	Co, Cty	County
AD	Anno Domini	d	died
adm, admin	administrator, administrative	dau	daughter
ae, aet	aetatisf (Latin - of age; aged)	dec	deceased
anc	ancestor	desc	descendant
ante	before	dnm	did not marry
ap	son of	d/o	daughter of
b	born	doc	document
bach	bachelor	d.s.p.	decessit sine prole (Latin - died without issue)
bap, bapt	baptized	d.s.p.l.	decessit sine prole legitima (Latin died without legitimate issue)
bd	buried	d.s.p.m.	decessit sine prole mascula (Latin - died without male issue)
bef	before	d.s.p.m.s.	decessit sine prole mascula superstita 2(Latin-died with-out surviving male issue)
beq	bequest	d.s.p.s.	decessit sine prole superstita (Latin - died without surviving issue)
bro	brother	d.v.m.	decessit vita matris (Latin - died in the lifetime of the mother)
bur	buried	d.v.p.	decessit vita patris (Latin - died in the lifetime of the father)
ca, c	circa (Latin - about, used with approx dates)		
cem	cemetery		
cen	census		
cer	certificate		
Ch	church		
chr	Christened		
conf	confirmed		

dwg	dwelling	mo	mother
d.y.	died young	n.d.	no date
dy	day	n.f.r.	no further record
est	estate	N.S.	New Style (date by Gregorian reckoning)
et ux	et uxor (Latin - and wife)	obit	obituary
f	folio (Latin - page (on deeds))	O.S.	Old Style (date by Julian reckoning)
f, fa	father	ob.s.p.	obit sine prole (Latin - died without issue)
fam	family	o.s.p.	obit sine prole (Latin- died without issue)
gd	grand, granddaughter	ped	pedigree
gdprts	grand parents	posth	posthumouspr proved (of will)
gdpa	grandfather	prts	parents
gdma	grandmother	qy	query
geneal	genealogy	res	residence
genr	generation	s	son
gf	grandfather	s & h	son and heir
gg	great great, great grand	sis	sister
g	great	s.l.p.	sine legitima prole (Latin - without legitimate issue)
ggd	great granddaughter	s.p.	sine prole (Latin - without issue)
ggs	great grandson	s/o	son of
gp	grandparents	spr	spinster
gr	great, grand	Sr.	Senior
grd	granddaughter	tn	town
grfa	grandfather	Tp, Twp	Township
grmo	grandmother	unkn	unknown
grs	grandson	unm	unmarried
grch	grandchildren	uxor	wife
g.s.	gravestone	viv.	vivens (Latin - living)
gs	grandson	VR	vital records
h	heir, husband	w	wife
h.s.	hic situr (Latin - here is buried	wid	widow, widower
ie	id est (Latin - that is)	widr	widower
illegit	illegitimate	wk	week
inf	infant, infancy	wtn	witness
info	information	Yeo	yeoman
inh	inherited	yr	year
inhab	inhabitant	yst	youngest
inv	inventory	=	married
Jr, Jnr	Junior	+	died
k	killed		
kn	known		
LDS	Church of the Later Day Saints (Mormons)		
lib	liber (Latin - book (on deeds))		
m	married		
m,bn	marriage banns		
mo, mos, mon	month		

SOME GENEALOGICAL TERMS DEFINED

achievement	an escutcheon with its helm, crest, mantle, supporters, and motto (heraldry).
ancestor	one from whom another is descended in direct line.
anhentafel	a table of ancestors.
apprentice	a person, who is usually a minor, bound by indenture or by legal agreement, to a master in order to learn from him his art, trade or business, and to serve him during the term of the apprenticeship.
archives	places where public records or historic documents are kept; preserved as evidence of acts.
ascendant	an ancestor, or one who precedes in genealogical succession.
banns	the published notice of an intended marriage.
bounty land	land given by the government, as a bounty, usually in compensation for military service.
clan	a social group comprising a number of households, the heads which claim descent from a common ancestor, bear a common surname, and acknowledge the paramountcy of a chief.
cognomen	a family name, ie a surname.
collateral ancestors	belonging to the same ancestral stock, but not in a direct line of descent, ie uncles, aunts, cousins are collateral kinsmen.
consanguinity	the state of being related by blood, or descended from a common ancestor.
decedent	a deceased person.
descendant	one who descends from - the opposite of ascendant.
dower	the legal right or interest which the wife acquires by marriage in the real estate of her husband; or the property which a woman brings to a husband in marriage - usually called dowery.
earmark	a mark of identification on the ear of a domestic animal used in colonial United States to identify unfenced stock; earmarks were registered and therefore hereditary. Same purpose as the branding of cattle.
emigrant	one departing from a country to settle permanently elsewhere.
freeman	one who took an oath to the government and to the church and was given civil or political liberty.
Friends	usually referred to as Quakers.
generation	the average lifetime of a man, or the period of time at which one rank follows another, or a father is succeeded by a child. Usually considered to be 33 years.
holographic will	a will made in the handwriting of the testator.
immigrant	one who goes into and settles in a foreign country; e.g. the emigrant from England is the immigrant to Canada.
indentured servant	a person who engaged himself to another, for a number of years, to pay off a debt, usually from 4 to 7 years.
issue	child or children
lineage	descent in a line from a common progenitor.
lineal	descent in a direct line from father to son.
nee	born, used to introduce the maiden name of a married woman.
progenitor	a forefather
relict	a widow

pedigree	an ancestral line or line of descent; a genealogical table showing the ancestors of an individual.
Pennsylvania Dutch	descendants of 18th century settlers in Pennsylvania from Germany.
spurious	illegitimate.
status plat	a copy of the plat of survey upon which has been diagrammed and noted such information as is necessary to determine the Federal ownership of public lands and resources.
testament	the disposition of one's property after death.
Warning Out Law	a colonial law which empowered a town to warn out individuals or families that were newcomers and had become impoverished and likely to become town charges, to return to the town from whence they came. There was no stigma attached to this procedure.
yeoman	a servant, attendant, or subordinate official in royal or other great household; an independent farmer.

QUERIES

JOHN HENRY MOHRMANN (1857 - 1916) Does anybody know of any paintings by John Henry Mohrmann? Born near Hanover Germany, at a young age he emigrated to San Francisco. At age 13 he ran away to sea as a cabin boy. He rose in the seafaring ranks and having a natural artistic ability, did paintings on cigar boxes for fellow sailors and took some formal training in Belgium between voyages. After marrying in Uruguay in 1886, he settled down as a painter of ship's portraits in Antwerp Belgium, then the world's leading seaport. He successfully supported a wife and seven children there until 1913 when he emigrated as a homesteader to Canada (to Bloomsbury, Alberta, N.W. of Edmonton). He did a few paintings in this country but we do not know where these are.

His ship's portraits are important to the history of ships and shipping. As a granddaughter, I have compiled a list of some 130 of his paintings but I feel there are many more paintings out there. He has paintings in museums in Belgium, Germany, Holland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland, England, Spain, Yugoslavia, the US and Canada, and more in private collections and I am sure in private homes. Can you help me locate more?

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*Our wishes for a Very
Merry Christmas*

*And All the Best in the
Coming Year*

