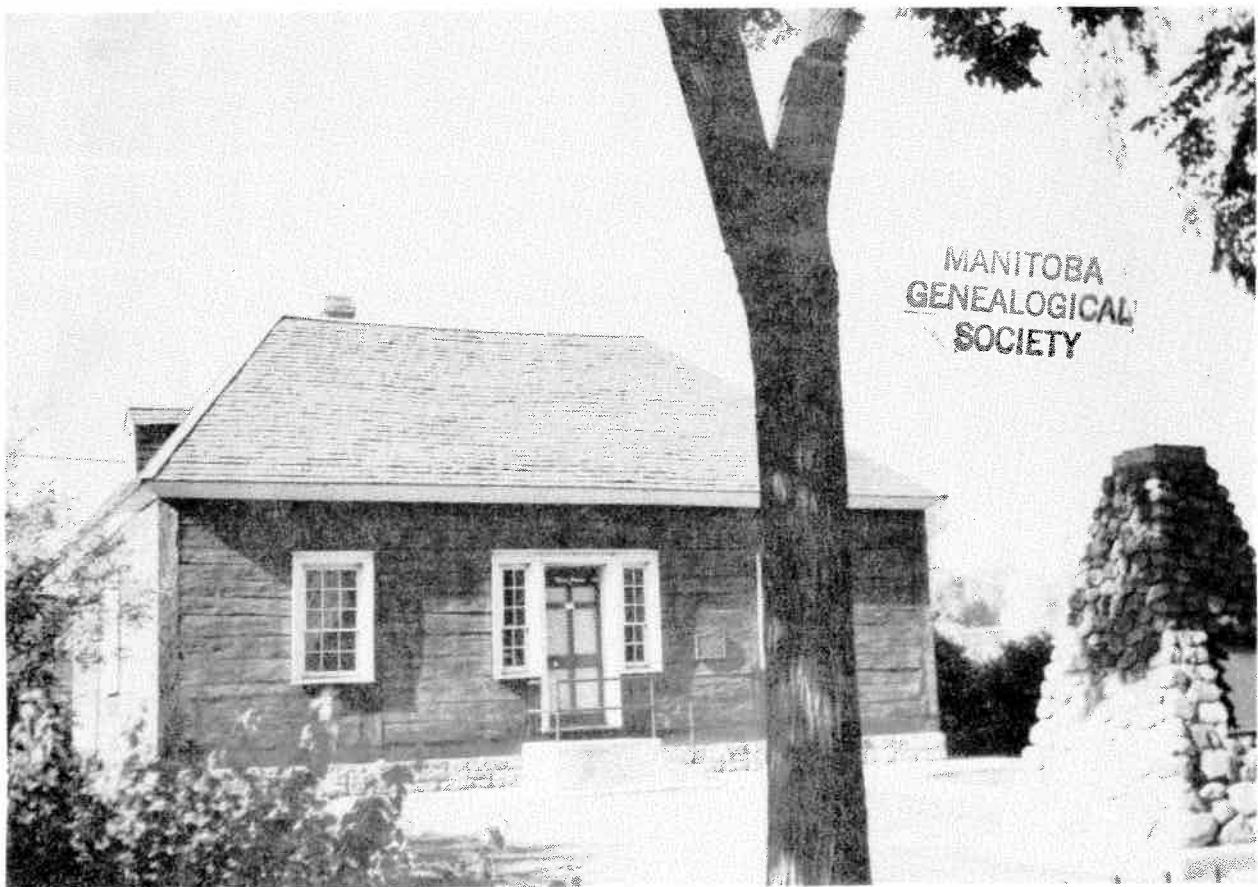
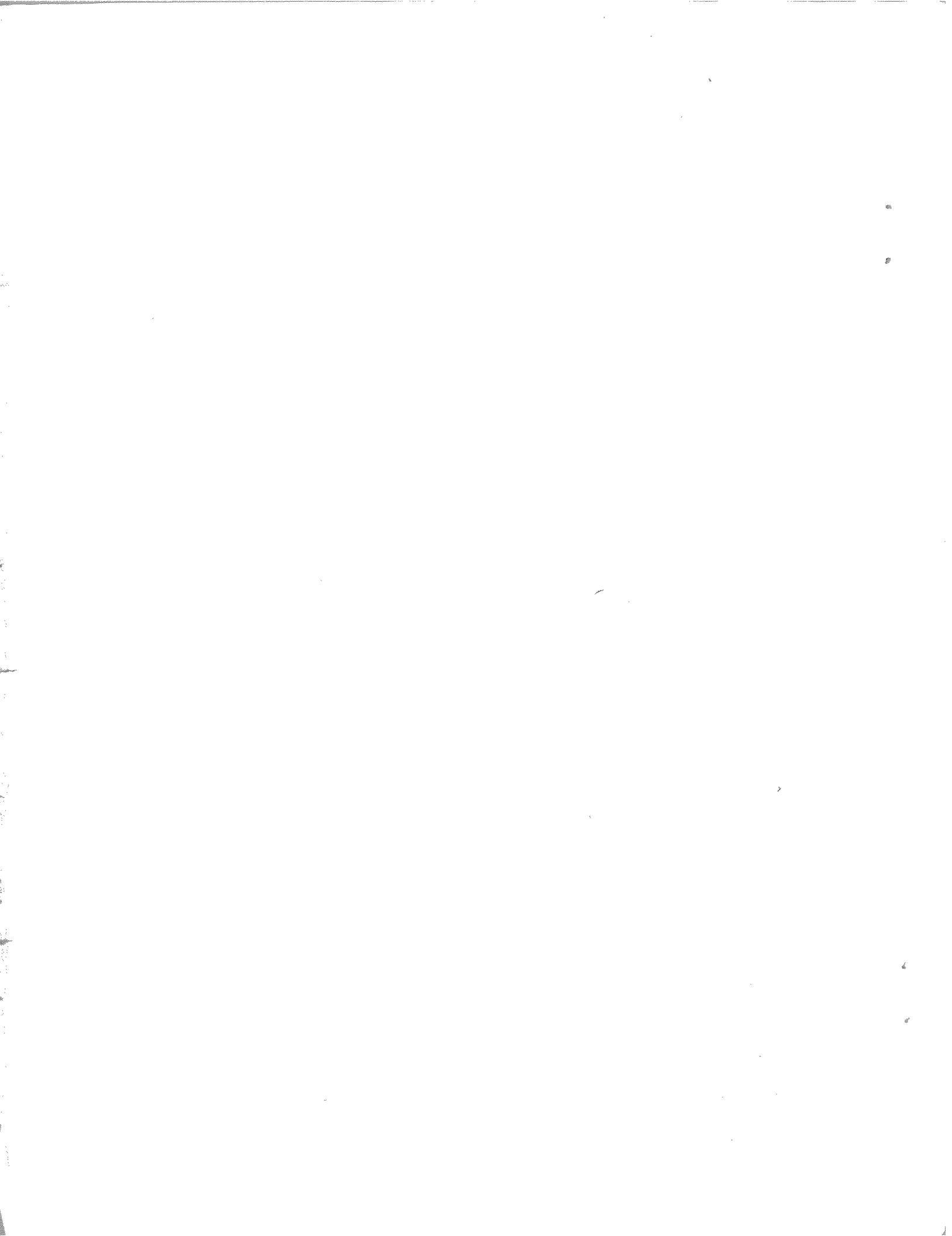


generations

The Journal of the Manitoba Genealogical Society

VOLUME 6, NO. 2 SUMMER, 1981





GENERATIONS

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Volume 6

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COVER: Ross House - Winnipeg home of Alexander Ross (1783-1856)
Scottish born fur trader and historian. Member of the
Assiniboia council from 1836 to 1850. Author of The Red
River Settlement : It's Rise, Progress, and Present State.

Photograph courtesy of Manitoba Archives.

Generations is published quarterly by the Manitoba Genealogical Society, Box 2066, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3C 3R4. The Chairman Of Publications invites articles and news items from all members of the Society and from anyone else having an interest in Genealogy. Manuscripts should be typewritten, double-spaced, with adequate margins.

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by Mabel St. Angelo #188

The Hamburg passenger lists are one of the finest single source of information for locating an immigrant ancestor's place of origin in central or eastern Europe. These passenger lists provide much useful genealogical data, including the passenger's hometown. There are very few comparable passenger lists or emigration records with such extensive indexes.

Members researching Ukrainian ancestors may find these lists particularly useful since many families also immigrated to Chile, Peru and Brazil.

The following table represents the names of immigrants having sailed on the S.S. Theben from Hamburg on 3 January 1898 (column headings were transcribed in English). The Hamburg Passenger Lists can be found on microfilm #472 948 (LDS).

	<u>Surname</u>	<u>Given Names</u>	<u>Sex</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Former Residence</u>	<u>State/Prov.</u>	<u>Occupation</u>	<u>Destination</u>
1.	FISCHER	Cesar	M	51	Hamburg	Hamburg	* Kaufmann	Volparaico, Chile
2.	"	Natalie	F	34	"	"	"	do
3.	"	Anna	F	12	"	"	"	do
4.	"	Erna	F	11	"	"	"	do
5.	"	Blanca	F	10	"	"	"	do
6.	"	Walter	M	8	"	"	"	do
7.	"	Ernest	M	4	"	"	"	do
8.	"	Arnulf	M	1	"	"	"	do
9.	BRIONIS	Amalia	F	36	"	"	Zofe	do
10.	STILLFRIED	Max	M	32	"	"	Kaufmann	do
11.	do	Elsa	F	22	"	"	"	do
12.	TIMERMANN	Dora	F	16	"	"	--	do
13.	CASTILLO	Escolastica	F	25	"	"	as Dienstmädchen	Mollendo, Peru
14.	RÖHDE	Christine	F	56	Stettin Preussen		--	Volparaico, Chile
15.	LIND	Christian	M	21	Hamburg	Hamburg	Kaufmann	do
16.	RUDOLPHY	Heinrich	M	61	"	"	Bentler	do

NEWS BRIEFS

For years rumours circulated in the archival community of the existence of an exceedingly rich and important collection of Canadian records hidden in the underground vaults of an American archival repository. The exact nature of the collection was unknown, except that it consisted of papers assembled by three prominent individuals who played an active part in Canadian-Russian relations.

Intrigued Canadian scholars and archivists began the search for the mysterious papers and were finally rewarded for their efforts. The collection, some 100 boxes of records, was indeed located in an underground repository. They had been removed from an undisclosed hiding place where they were taken when the former Russian Embassy in Washington was cleaned out in time for the arrival in 1933 of the new Soviet Ambassador, Maxim Litvinov. According to John Krinitzky, son of the last chargé d'affaires of the Embassy, the Soviets, before they took over the premises, insisted that the building be cleared of all vestiges of "Russian Imperialism". The Canadian records which were stored there at that time had been sent from New York and Boston where they had been housed in consular offices since 1922. It appears that the collection left Canada after the Government closed the Russian consulate in Montreal in June of that year. Montreal, too, was a stop-over for segments of the collection which came in 1920 from Vancouver, and later, from Halifax.

It has been determined that the compilers of this collection were Sergei Likacheff, who had been Consul General in Montreal; Harry Mathers, Vice-Consul in Halifax; and Constantine Ragosine, Consul in Vancouver. C.

All three lost their jobs in Canada when the Bolsheviks overthrew the Provisional Government in 1917. In recognition of their extraordinary familiarity with, and the respect they enjoyed among Canadians of East European origin, the Canadian Government offered them positions in the Immigration service while they ministered to the needs of their compatriots. In this latter capacity they served Russian citizens in Canada till 1922.

All three were inveterate collectors of records relating to all aspects of immigration, settlement, social adjustment, military service and relations between Canada and Imperial Russia. Their collection contains hundreds of thousands of photographs, letters, and related documents. Matters relating to fisheries, trade and commerce, Canadian participation in Russia's Civil War, cultural and religious ministry, and many other affairs are also well documented.

For thousands of Canadians of Armenian, Doukobor, Estonian, Finnish, Georgian, Jewish, Latvian, Lithuanian, Mennonite, Polish, Russian, and Ukrainian origin a new bridge has been opened to the place they, or their ancestors came from. Often for the first time, these Canadians will see what their forbears looked like, learn about their lifestyles and their cultural and religious values. Their story is told in countless letters, reports and other documents, found in this collection.

Those tracing their ancestors may be able to uncover long-lost relatives, who may well turn out to be their next-door neighbours. Individuals may be able to claim estates that they never knew existed, or repossess the belongings they lost. Likacheff and Ragosine, in particular, kept accurate information on places of origin of immigrants, dates of arrival in Canada, places they settled, education, names of next-of-kin, ownership of property, and value of estates. They were legal advisers, defenders in courts, trustees of estates and monitors of claims for pensions, compensations, land grants, and support for their dependents while on war service.

Thousands of East Europeans served in the Canadian Armed Forces during World War I. Written in Russian, Finnish, Yiddish, and Ukrainian their deeds and misfortunes are told in often heart-rending letters. Canadians who served in the Siberian Expeditionary Force of the Archangel Railway Brigade are often listed by name and Canadian relief to victims of the Civil War is well documented as is Likacheff's effort to free interned Russians mistaken for Austrian nationals. Socialist and communist movements were reported on, and spiritual ministrations were encouraged.

One ethnic group, more than any other, will find these records of enormous benefit. The immigration of the Jewish Community from Russia to Canada is exceptionally well documented. For most Canadian Jews the lack of comprehensive records on places of their origin in Russia, Lithuania, Byelorussia, Poland, and the Ukraine has been a major obstacle to establishing their ties with a former homeland and relatives left behind. The excitement among Canadian Jews at the prospect of studying records of their exodus from Russia is already evident among those who have learned of the existence of the collection.

The final lap of the odyssey of this priceless collection took place in April of this year when authorities in charge of the American repository agreed to transfer custody of the records to Canada. Robert Gordon, Director of the Manuscript Division negotiated the transfer, and his Division is now actively organizing and indexing the collection. According to Mr. Gordon, the papers may yet reveal a wealth of additional information once they have been properly inventoried. The task of organizing, describing, and microfilming the material may take a year or more, at which time this priceless collection of Canadiana will be available to the public for research.

BOOK REVIEW

by Gerald Brown

Look Who's Coming: The Wachna Story; illus. by William Kurelek.
Oshawa: Maracle Press Limited, 1976. 124 p. \$12.00

The author and the Wachna Foundation have created an informative and readable story of the migration of the Ukrainian population to Southeastern Manitoba, from about 1894 through 1939. The story is very personal. It is linked together by anecdotes and historical documentation. The illustrations are superb, in the Kurelek style, and expressive of the feelings of the persons involved. An excellent biographical sketch of Kurelek to 1975 is included.

The foreword written by Dr. Vladimir J. Kaye drawn from the reference: Dictionary Of Ukrainian Canadian Biography - E. E. Pioneer Settlers Of Manitoba (Public Archives, Ottawa, Ontario, 1976) gives a thoroughly documented sketch of Theodosy Wachna and his significant role in settlement and immigration in the Manitoba context.

One comes to appreciate the role played by these early settlers. One also sees the western settlement through "new eyes" as compared to life in Eastern Europe - an excellent social perspective for Canadian studies.

The volume deals quite specifically with Stuartburn, Tolstoi, Gardenton, Ucta, Arbakka, Zhoda, Senkiw, Rosa, Caliento, and Franklin municipalities. The construction of the Rosseau river bridge is sensitively handled, as are numerous business transactions.

The family tree of the Wachna family is provided. Numerous excellent photographs elaborate the presentation. A brief bibliography is provided. The works would have been markedly improved with the inclusion of maps related to the homeland, travel and settlement.

This volume is recommended for public libraries, Ukrainian and ethnic collections, and school district centres. Genealogical library collections would be wise to acquire the volume as well.

A copy of this book is held by the Manitoba Genealogical Society Library, 1180 Notre Dame, Winnipeg.

W. W. GO EAST, YOUNG MAN, GO EAST

by J. Brian Gilchrist

"On Wednesday morning, about 200 persons principally residents of the town assembled at the Grand Trunk depot to witness the departure of a number of friends and acquaintances who started for Manitoba and the N.W.T. per special train for the party. As the 'iron horse' steamed into sight, tears began to trickle down the cheeks of some; others bade a kind farewell to friends whom perhaps they may never meet on earth again, and while the voice betrayed not the pang, yet the face showed what the heart felt when the parting moment came. A vast heap of luggage was stowed on board, the whistle told the starting train, 'aboard' shouted the conductor and off they went amid waving of handkerchiefs and a general goodbye."

The above account, while it happened in Brampton, Ontario, illustrates a situation which occurred many hundreds of times, not only in Ontario and the rest of eastern North America, but in any part of the world where people heard of the call to the Canadian west - the Land of Opportunity. Almost 100 years have passed since the period of great migrations began to this region, although it must be remembered that there had been many earlier attempts at settlement, such as those sponsored by Lord Selkirk to mention possibly the most known scheme.²

The purpose of this paper then is to give some guidance to the family historian who is a descendant of those pioneers of a century or so ago whose research takes him East, first to the neighbouring province of Ontario, and then hopefully across the waters of the Atlantic to 'the old country' in Great Britain or Europe.

To begin your Ontario research you must have some idea of a location. The majority of records valuable to genealogical research in the province are arranged by either township or county, and in the earlier periods by districts, although counties existed at the same time, although for different purposes. Hopefully the following will help you to understand the situation. In 1788, Lord Dorchester proclaimed the existence of four districts in the part of the province now known as Ontario, which was still at the time part of the Province of Quebec.³ It was the district which was the basis of local government, while the Counties which Governor Simcoe proclaimed on the 16th of July 1792 originally had only three functions - as a riding for elections, for land registration procedures and as a militia division.⁴ On October 15th, 1792 the four districts in Upper Canada were renamed.

Suffice it to say that as the population of the province increased the districts were subdivided into smaller, more manageable units until there were 20 Districts at the time of the Act of Union (following Lord Durham's report) in 1841. From that year until Districts were abolished in 1849, no new Districts were formalized, with the exception of a provisional District of Kent,

which was formed by donditional legislation in 1847⁶, which conditions had not been fulfilled by, and hence repealed by The Municipal Act of 1849.⁷ For further details, with illustrative maps of the boundaries, I would suggest that you read "The Districts of Upper Canada, 1788 - 1849", by George W. Spraggs.⁸ For a more detailed history of the Province in general during these years, I would suggest Gerald M. Craig's - Upper Canada: The Formative Years, 1784 - 1841.⁹

Thus, if your family records do not give a specific place of origin in Ontario, how are you going to find it? There are three things which are easily checked or studied that should be able to provide you with a starting point. First, there are numerous local histories that have been recently published, and they go out of their way to mention a fairly specific place of origin. Second, check your newspapers. It seems to me having read numerous issues of western Canada's old newspaper files that they too went out of their way to state a place of origin in Ontario. These types of items will be usually found in the marriage and death notices, or in the personal columns. It also seems apparent that at times, most newspapers ran a series of columns of "Hotel Arrivals", or "Guests in Our Town". Some examples: a typical death notice reads: "McKenzie - In this city on the 11th instant, John D. McKenzie, aged 81 years. Deceased was formerly a resident of Galt, Ontario."¹⁰ Or, we read that at the Winnipeg International Hotel on April 17th, 1879 there appears to be a whole family on the move; "...Frederick Maniker, Sarnia; John Maniker & Herbert Maniker, Picton, Ont.,...Mrs. John Maniker & 3 children, Picton."¹¹ Or perhaps something like this which was found under "Freight Arrivals and Immigration Notes" in the Winnipeg Times of 1879 - "Mr. McKnight from Oxford County, Ont. with a family of nine left for the Beyne settlement with several wagons of material."¹²

There are two problems associated with the above type of work in the newspapers: a) the people who wrote the news items were not always that specific about the location. For example, if the article reads "Simcoe" Ontario - does this mean the town of Simcoe in Norfold County on the north side of Lake Erie, or does it mean the County of Simcoe north of Toronto? The same with Hamilton - city or township? Haldimand - County or township? But at least they have given you a start! The second problem, b), is that the newspapers are as yet unindexed. Perhaps this would be a very worthwhile project for some members to consider in conjunction with a public library. Several town and cities here in Ontario have undertaken such indexing projects and the results are magnificent.

The third way in which you can try to determine a place of origin is by studying the overall migration patterns to the area in which your ancestor lived. If all the tombstones in the cemetery state "Native of Bruce County, Ontario", ten to one that your ancestor was from Bruce County too! Try and check the homestead records for your ancestor and his immediate neighbours; did they all come from the same area? Although this is a much more time consuming search, the rewards can be very worthwhile as you will be able to trace the community back to Ontario, and then perhaps they had come from the old country in a group migration previous to that!

Now once you have found that place in Ontario you can begin, and start with the basics - the census. There are census returns for the province of Canada West/Ontario for 1851/52, 1861, 1871 and 1881. The originals of these records are held in The Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa.¹³ These decennial returns are arranged by locality, either town, township, village or city, within the

1801	1891	1941	1991
1801	1901	1951	
1821	1911	1961	
1831	1921	1971	
1841	1931	1981	

different counties.¹⁴ Name, age, occupation, place of birth (usually just country), religion and marital status are usually given, although one should be very cautious about the accuracy of the information.¹⁵

There are other actual census documents available, and records which effectively replace the lack of a formal 'census'. The earliest actual census in the English speaking part of the province might be the 1783 Census of Niagara. Then there are local 'census', as well as local assessment rolls, etc., which can fulfill the lack of a formal census. These can be found by checking various institutions, but the most common places would be: a) The Public Archives of Canada, and firstly its "Catalogue of Census Returns on Microfilm, 1825 - 1871"¹⁶, and also at the P.A.C. Finding Aid 300, which is a listing of known manuscript sources predating 1825 which can replace the census. b) check at The Archives of Ontario.¹⁷ To find these types of records there check in either the General Manuscripts card catalogue under the name of the locality, or in The Municipal Records Inventory, which is available in the general reading room. It should be noted that there was an official 1842 and 1848 census, but they are only for the heads of households, and neither census exists in totality, there are just sporadic locations left for the 1848 in south western Ontario, and one or two places elsewhere. Your chances of finding an 1842 are much better than 1848.

Perhaps the next type of documentation that you should seek out are the church records - and within this group the most important could be the marriage registers. The Archives of Ontario has the largest centralized collection of pre-civil registration marriage registers.¹⁸ The earliest register available in this series is that for the 'London' (actually beginning when the district was still called 'Hesse') which has entries as far back as 1784, with the bulk of the registers covering the period of 1858 - 1869. At the moment the majority of the registers are either poorly indexed, or not at all. However, through the efforts of private individuals, notably Mr. William E. Britnell of Mississauga, Ontario, this situation is gradually being eliminated. The County registers of 1858 - 1869 are fairly detailed, providing usually the following information: name of the bride and groom, their ages, residence at the time of marriage, place of birth (usually country only), father & mother's names (maiden names are sometimes given), the names of the witnesses, the date of the marriage, the name of the officiating party, and denomination thereof.¹⁹

The main difficulty with these registers is that they are "copy books", and hence there is greater room for error & omission. The Archives of Ontario also has a large collection of original and microform church registers which might be of help. To locate these you can check the card catalogues under the name of the locality in which you are interested.

You must also check other repositories for church records, and really they must all be checked to make sure that the records are either complete, or are missing either in part or in total, as the case may be. For example you could find records for one church in up to four different places: say in the case of Methodist church records - they could be in The United Church Archives, the local archives (municipal or say, University), the actual church and finally private hands. For articles concerning the various types of church records which exist in the denominational archives, I would suggest that you read the papers dealing with Church records in "Readings in Ontario Genealogical Sources".²⁰

The next type of record that you could check for is either a Last Will and Testament, or Letters of Administration (or extate records). The Probate Court of Upper Canada existed from 1793 until 1858, when the County Surrogate Court replaced it. The Archives of Ontario has the records of The Probate Court - the surviving original documents, in either the original case files, or in some cases the Court Copy Books. There is a typescript index to the original case files, called "The Researcher's Guide to the Probate Court" which is available in the general Reading Room. After the formation of the County Surrogate Courts in 1858, your search can be conducted in two ways, depending upon your knowledge. If you know the county of death of your ancestor, you can immediately go to the records of that county, and check their indexes to see what files, if any, exist for your ancestor. If you do not know the county of death, or if you are interested in tracing all the people of one surname, The Indexes of the Office of The Surrogate Clerk can be of great help. The Office of the Surrogate Clerk was established in 1858 to prevent the granting of "double" probates. To this day, still located in Toronto, all applications for probate or administration had to be "cleared" through this office, and as the applications were granted the Clerk kept an index to these.

There are ^{two} tow steps in checking this out. First, the chronological/nominal index. This is arranged chronologically by alphabet, and will give you the name of the deceased, the application number, and the year. You then take this information and proceed to step two - the checking of the Application Books. These are arranged by year, and then the application number. Once you locate your number you will get the name of the deceased, the date of the application, the date of death, the names of those making the application, and most importantly what Surrogate Court was given jurisdiction over the case. Having gotten this information you can then proceed to the actual County court records, and follow that system through.

Unfortunately there is no uniform system of indexing within the Surrogate Court, and each county must be mastered separately. To aid you in this cause the Archives of Ontario has prepared "The Researcher's Guide to the Surrogate Court", which is available in the general reading room. It should also be noted that the Ontario Archives hold microfilm copies of 'selected' documents from the Surrogate Court files, as well as the originals in many cases. The microfilms were prepared by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (the Mormons), and extended from the earliest files in that county up to 1900. For documents after 1900, they might still be in either the County Court House, or under the Ontario Archives control. Start to check with the local Surrogate Court. In some few cases there are the originals held in another institution on behalf of the Surrogate Coart - to mention one in particular - The University of Western Ontario's Regional Room in their Library holds numerous court records for the earlier periods dealing with Middlesex and the surrounding counties. ²¹

As you can appreciate, there is a problem at the moment in finding a pre-1858 estate record. However, the author of this paper has been working on a "master" list for this period, and has already recorded several thousand entries, and will have this ready for distribution in about a year's time. Although it will not be the definitive work, it will be a start which will be able to be updated periodically as more records come to light.

There are many, many other types of records and sources that are available to the genealogist in Ontario - land records, directories, newspapers, government records and private manuscripts to name but a few. It is not possible to do justice to any of these areas in a paper of this length, as pages and pages have been written upon land records alone! It is my hope that for those of you who are going to be pursuing your Ontario research that you take time to read the articles and books which are listed in the notes and bibliography for suggested further reading which are attached to the paper.

One hundred years ago the cry was "Go West, Young Man, Go West!" Today, their descendants must heed the call to "Come East" to search for the records of their ancestors.

* * * * *

John Brian Gilchrist, the author of this paper, is a ninth generation Canadian, being descended from families of English, Irish, Scottish, Germanic and American backgrounds. His own blood ancestors literally have lived and died in all parts of Canada from King's County, New Brunswick to Vancouver and he has one ancestress, Helen Esson May, who died in the early 1900's, buried in the Carberry cemetery.

Mr. Gilchrist is one of Canada's leading genealogists and family historians and is internationally known as well. He is Canada's Director on The Board of Governors of The International Society for British Genealogy and Family History, Honourary Consultant, as well as Canada's Representative to Family History Services Ltd., a division of Environmental History of Bedfordshire, England. An active member of The Ontario Genealogical Society and many of its branches, Mr. Gilchrist acts as a genealogical consultant to numerous archival institutions, including The United Church of Canada Central Archives and The Presbyterian Church in Canada Archives.

Early in 1979, Mr. Gilchrist began writing Canada's first weekly column on genealogy in The Toronto Sunday Star which has a circulation of about 500,000 and he was also granted status as a Certified Genealogical Record Searcher from the Board for Certification of Genealogists, in Washington, D.C.

* * * * *

NOTES:

1. "The Brampton Conservator", Brampton, Ontario, Friday March 19th, 1880 page 3, column 2
2. Numerous works have been written about Selkirk and his settlements. The most recent, basic introductory article on the history of this man and his plans can be read in "The Beaver", Autumn 1978, page 16-21, in the article by J.M. Bumstead entitled 'Lord Selkirk's Highland Regiment and the Kildonian Settlers'.
3. The original districts were named Lunenburg, Mecklenburg, Nassau and Hesse from east to west. See The Fourth Report of the Ontario Bureau of Archives, 1906, Toronto, page 157
4. Handbook of Upper Canadian Chronology and Territorial Legislation, by Frederick H. Armstrong, University of Western Ontario, London, 1967, pages 137 - 212.

5. Lunenburg became the Eastern District; Mecklenburg the Midland; Nassau the Home and Hesse the Western, by Statute of Upper Canada, 32 Geo. III, cap 8.
6. By 10 & 11 Vic. cap 39 (1847). The County of Kent was to become a District upon the completion of the building of a jail and Court House, which was not finished until after 1849.
7. 12 Vic. cap 78 - 81 (1849, 30th May).
8. "Ontario History", Journal of The Ontario Historical Society, Vol XXXIX, 1947, pages 91 - 100.
9. Gerald M. Craig, 'Upper Canada: The Formative Years, 1784 - 1841' (Toronto, McClelland and Stewart Ltd., 1972)
10. "The Winnipeg Daily Free Press", Friday, August 14, 1874, page 3, col. 3.
Note: this person would not have been born in Galt, as the area was not settled until circa 1820. Hence, he would have been born elsewhere, possibly Scotland, although the western paper would mention his last former residence, not place of nativity which is both good and bad.
11. "The Winnipeg Daily Times", Thursday April 17th, 1879, page 3, column 3.
Note: Frederick being from Sarnia, and the rest from Picton. Did this Frederick move to the Sarnia area at the time of the oil boom in the late 1860's?
12. "The Winnipeg Daily Times", Tuesday April 22nd, 1879.
13. The Public Archives of Canada, 395 Wellington Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A ON3. This institution participates in inter-library loans as well as provincial archival dissemination programmes, e.g. documents relative to Ontario are sent on microfilm to the Ontario Archives, Manitoba to Manitoba Archives, etc.
14. Note that the northern parts of Ontario are still arranged as Districts. —
15. "Families", the journal of the Ontario Genealogical Society, Vol. 15, No. 3, Summer 1976, pages 95 & 96 for an article by Mrs. R.D. Guselle, on the lighter side of census taking - although truely illustrative of the genealogical problems with census records (and many other types of records for that matter!)
16. Catalogue of Census Return on Microfilm 1825 - 1871, by the Public Archives of Canada, Ottawa, Supply and Services Canada Order Number SA2-95/1978 (ISBN 0-660-50044-2).
17. The Archives on Ontario is located at 77 Grenville Street, Toronto, Ontario.
18. Civil Registration in Ontario began on 1st July 1869. Cost per certificate/search as of October 1st, 1979 is \$5.00 (Five dollars, Canadian funds).
19. see, Bruce Elliott's "Utility & Variety of early church records", in Families, Vol. 16, No. 4, 1977, pages 207 - 224.
20. Readings in Ontario Genealogical Sources, edited by Don Wilson, Oakville, Ontario, 1979, 298 p.
21. Other such institutions include: The Peterborough Centennial Museum; The Perth County Archives; The Simcoe County Archives; The Niagara-on-the-Lake Public Library, to name but only a few.

SUGGESTED FURTHER READING

1. "Families", the journal of The Ontario Genealogical Society, Box 66, Station Q, Toronto, M4T 2L7. Especially: Vol. 14, No. 4; Vol. 15, No. 4; Vol. 16, No. 4; Vol. 17, No. 4. These are the "Seminar" issues.
2. "Ontario History", the journal of The Ontario Historical Society, 1466 Bathurst Street, Toronto.
3. Readings in Ontario Genealogical Sources, (The COGS manual), edited by Don Wilson, Oakville, Ontario, 1979. And within his refer to the bibliography of material in the Scanland article.

DOING RESEARCH IN PERSON IN ENGLAND ~~X~~

by Carin Routledge

My aim in this article is to relate what I learned about doing genealogical research on the spot in England, in the hope that it might be helpful to any of you who are planning a trip to England and hoping to do some research while you are there. Since time is always very limited for travellers, you will want to accomplish as much as possible in the least possible time. To do that, you must be well informed, well prepared, and well organized. I hope this article will help by showing what homework should be done before you set out.

First, go through your records and determine what information you will want to look for in England. Then decide which records will give you that information. To learn this, read a good handbook on genealogical research in England to find out which records exist and what they contain.

Next, learn how to use those records. Find out what information you will need to have in order to find the correct document. Know how the records are organized: whether by date, by location, by name, or whatever. Then organize your notes the same way for convenience when using the records. Know what data the records will provide. If you know the exact headings, you can make up a few sheets with the headings already written in so you need only fill in the details when you find them. This saves time.

Then learn where the records are housed, and learn all you can about how to use those repositories. For this it is very important to use an up-to-date guide to British research, because many records have recently been moved.

When you know which repositories have the records you need, find out their addresses, hours of business, and how they operate. For this refer to Record Repositories in Great Britain, published by the British Records Association and Historical Manuscripts Commission (Rutherford Library, Reference section CD 1042 G78 1973).

It gives a full list of record repositories in Britain, including postal addresses, hours of opening, and whether or not a guide to the record office has been published.

The next step is to learn how to find your way around London. I recommend learning how to use Nicholson's London Guide, a compact and indispensable guide to the city, with maps and plans of the Underground and bus routes. London Transport's tourist guide called Visitor's London also explains how to use the bus and Underground systems and contains useful maps at the back.

General Register Office Civil Registration

The main records here pertain to the civil registration of births, marriages, and deaths in England and Wales since 1 July 1837. The General Register Office is located in St. Catherine's House, 10 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6JF on the corner of Kingway and Aldwych. The nearest tube station is Aldwych, but it operates only during rush hours, Monday through Friday; therefore I recommend using the Holborn station instead.

The Public Search Room is open on weekdays from 9:30 to 4:30, and Saturday mornings from 9:30 till 12:30. No reader's ticket is required here; just walk in. Security men at the entrance search your purse and briefcase before you are allowed to enter. This is true for many public buildings in London, including the museums, as a security precaution.

There is no charge for using the indexes, but the only access to the information in the records is by certificate. The 1978 fees for certificates were: (these fees have since gone up)

by mail, full certificate	6.00
in person, verification	1.50
short certificate	1.50
full certificate	2.50

As you can see, there is a considerable saving when you do your own searching, but you may feel you earn it!

The working conditions at St. Catherine's House can be summed up in a word: crowded. This is especially true during lunch time and in the summer months.

The indexes are arranged on rows of metal shelves. Between the rows are podium-style tables on which to set the books. There is standing room only, no chairs. The books are very large, very heavy, and cumbersome. Each weighs about 10 to 20 pounds. (So try hoisting a 20-lb. box of laundry detergent a few times, and you will know what you are in for!) Because each book is so large,

space at the tables is quickly taken up, and you may find yourself balancing your tome on a corner.

In view of these conditions, I recommend (1) that you bring along only what you need, in as compact a form as possible (for example, a clipboard with a fold-back cover, or a coil-bound notebook, instead of a ring-binder or briefcase); (2) that you arrive as early in the day as possible, before the crush, and while you are still fresh and ready to face the strenuous task before you; and (3) that you get rid of your coat and umbrella (there are coat racks at the back of the room) and make yourself as comfortable as possible.

The basic procedure at St. Catherine's House is this: You do your searching in the indexes, and record the entries as you find them. Then go to the back of the search room and fill in the application forms for the certificates you want to order. Give the forms and the money to the clerk and keep your receipt. Come back in a day or two, with your receipt, to pick up the certificates (at the front desk), or have them mailed to your home address.

Notice that you cannot get the certificates the same day you apply for it; therefore you cannot use any information from that certificate to do further research that same day. So, if you want to do further research that requires information you hope you have just found, you must plan on a second visit to St. Catherine's House, perhaps when you pick up your certificates.

The indexes are arranged separately for births, marriages and deaths. Within each of these categories they are in chronological order by quarter years. Any given volume, therefore, covers only a quarter of a year, and in many cases, only part of the alphabet. So a search covering a five-year period would require looking in twenty heavy volumes. To minimize this strenuous activity, narrow down your dates as much as possible from other sources before you try to find a record at St. Catherine's House. You will be glad you did!

The only data given in the indexes are surname, forenames, registration district, volume and page number. You will be surprised how many people with the same names are listed in each quarter. The registration districts, then, become very important to help distinguish your relative from all the others. The best aids for sorting out registration districts are the Registration District Maps available from the Society of Genealogists in London. There are two maps: one for 1837-1851, the other for 1852-1946. The next best thing is a small pocket atlas that has an index of place names (e.g. Bartholomew's

UK Motoring Pocket Atlas). With this you can look up an unfamiliar registration district to see whether it is near the area you are interested in or not. It is very helpful to be as knowledgeable as possible about the area you are dealing with.

Here is a tip to keep in mind when search for marriage entries: First, search for the name of the spouse with the least common surname. Then, if no suitable entry is found, you need not bother to look for the other spouse in that quarter. When you do find a possible entry, though, always verify it by looking up the other spouse as well. If both entries give the same registration district, volume, and page number, you know you have the right entry.

In making your notes for St. Catherine's House, I recommend that you keep each entry you plan to search for on a separate page. Then you will have lots of room below to make notes about your search.

At the top of the page put the information you need in order to find the entry in the indexes: the event (birth, marriage, or death), the date, the surname and forenames, and the likely registration district. Below that write any information you have that might be helpful in locating the entry you want. Below that, record your search. Indicate in which indexes you searched, and which entries you checked. For example, if there were pages and pages of Hardings, did you just look for a Harding, Henry Thomas, or did you also check for a Harding, Thomas Henry, or did you check all the Harding; Henry's, or all the Hardings.

Indicate what you find, and in which volume, so later you can compare the entries to see which seems most likely. Be sure to note the year and quarter of the index and the registration district, volume, and page number of the entries you find, because this information is required on the application forms.

Finally, state your conclusions. If you found the entry you were looking for, give the particulars and indicate the date on which you ordered the certificate. If you got stuck, maybe because you found too many with the same name, and none in the expected registration district, so that you will need more data to distinguish them, say so. These notes about your search let you know what you have already tried, and help you decide what to do next.

When you have found all your entries, go to the back of the search room and fill out the appropriate application forms - one form for each certificate ordered. Notice that two kinds of birth certificates are available. The short certificate does not give the names of the parents; therefore it is useless for genealogy. So always order the full certificate of birth.

On the back of the application form is space for additional data to be used to verify that the certificate you are requesting is in fact the one you want. For example, to verify a birth certificate, you could give the parents' names on the back. But be careful. If the information you put on the back does not tally exactly with the data on the certificate, they will not supply the certificate. Instead, they refund \$1.00 as a postal money order and charge you only 1.50 for verification (1978 prices).

Searching at St. Catherine's sounds very straightforward, but you can often run into problems. For example, when I was searching for the birth certificate of Armah Harper, I found it listed under Harper, Harmer, and therefore alphabetized among the H's rather than the A's. (This provides an interesting clue to the parents' dialect, however).

I also ran into problems searching for the birth certificate of Henry Thomas Harding. Although I have all the data I need, and I believe them to be correct, I cannot find the entry. I checked all Harding entries for the year of his birth, and for three years before and after, just in case. I looked for any Henry Thomas, Thomas Henry, or just Henry. But I found no entries in the most likely registration districts, near the area where census records confirm the family lived. A mystery.

Since it is possible to confirm a marriage entry by checking under the name of both spouses, I decided to search for the marriage certificate for Thomas Britton and Mary Ann Robinson, even though I did not know when or exactly where their marriage took place. To determine which period to search, I worked backwards from the birth of one of their children, but I did not know whether she was the eldest or the youngest or in between. Marriage certificates give so much information and I had had such good luck searching for them before, that I did not let all this lack of information deter me. I searched. And I searched, and I searched. Eventually I covered a 20-year period, at four volumes per year, and often two volumes per quarter to check under both spouses' names, which amounts to about 150 volumes in all (at twenty pounds each!), and with no luck. Later, when visiting a relative, I found the date of the wedding in a family Bible. I rechecked my notes on the search, I had found the entry all right, but the page numbers did not match - an error in the indexes, it seems!

The moral of this is that it is much easier to do your homework first, and only search at St. Catherine's House when you really have all the data you need. And my hours of weightlifting there mellowed my attitude toward the stiff fee they charge to do the search for us.

Public Record Office (PRO)

We need to use the Public Record Office for government and legal documents, including wills, census records, and non-parochial registers. The Public Record Office is not one building, but three: (1) the original PRO in Chancery Lane, (2) its annex in the Land Registry Building on Portugal St., and (3) the new headquarters in Kew.

The Reading Rooms in all three buildings are open from 9:30 to 5:00, Monday through Friday. They are closed on public holidays and for annual stocktaking, usually the last week in September and the first week in October (so don't plan your trip for then!). No requests for documents will be accepted after 4:00 p.m. in the Reading Rooms at Kew, or after 3:30 in Chancery Lane or Portugal Street.

Admittance to all PRO buildings is by valid readers' ticket only. Readers' tickets are issued at the Reception Counter at Kew, or at the Enquiry Officer in Chancery Lane to "applicants who have been recommended in writing by a person in a recognized position (usually one identifiable from a professional or other directory), or who can otherwise satisfy the Keeper of Public Records of their identity and suitability to be allowed access to the records" (quoting from the PRO's Information for Readers leaflet). In other words, they want evidence that you are a reputable individual doing bona fide research.

I recommend that you apply in writing to the Enquiry Office of the PRO in Chancery Lane well before you leave Canada. Give them your name, occupation and permanent address, and state the purpose of your research, namely, personal genealogical research, and include one or two letters of reference from suitable persons. And while you are at it, ask that they send you a copy of their leaflet Information for Readers when they send you your readers' ticket, so that you can learn the procedure for getting documents there before you show up on their doorstep.

A readers' ticket issued in one building will be equally valid for admission to the other PRO buildings. There is no charge to obtain a readers' ticket or to use the records at the PRO.

The best guide to the PRO records is a 3-volume set called Guide to the Contents of the Public Record Office (Rutherford Library, Reference section, DA 25 A1) which discusses each series of records fully.

The rules for all PRO reading rooms are stated in the Information for Readers leaflet. They include these:

- All bags and containers will be searched on admission and may be searched on departure.
- The number of documents which will be produced to a reader at one time is limited to three.
- Documents may be ordered in advance at Chancery Lane by telephoning or writing to the Enquiry Office.
(This is a very good idea. It can save a lot of waiting, but you must be able to supply the document number to order in advance.)
- Pencils only may be used for writing. Ink, ball-point pen, and other writing implements are forbidden. Pencils must not be sharpened in the Reading Rooms.
- Records must be handled with great care.
- Smoking is forbidden.
- The use of typewriters is permitted in the typing areas at Kew, and in the Long Room at Chancery Lane.
- Tape recorders may be used at Kew, and with prior permission at Chancery Lane.
- Copying of documents by photographic and other means is undertaken exclusively by the Office; and the use of cameras by readers is forbidden.

The Chancery Lane PRO is located at the Fleet St. end of Chancery Lane. The nearest tube station is Chancery Lane. The Enquiry Office can direct you to the appropriate reading room for the records you are seeking. As with most other repositories in London, however, it is a busy place, and it may be difficult to find a seat; so allow yourself ample time. No requests for documents will be accepted after 3:30 p.m.

The PRO annex in the Land Registry Building is located at the corner of Portugal and Serle Streets, about midway between Chancery Lane and St. Catherine's House, and an easy walk from either place. The census records are housed here.

The census records are now available on microfilm only. There are about 50 microfilm viewers in the reading room, but they are frequently all in use, especially during the lunch hour. So come early in the day and claim a viewer before you look up the number of the microfilm. You will have to put your viewer number on the request form anyway.

There are indexes toward the back of the room where you look up the number of the microfilm you need. Instructions on how to use these indexes are clearly posted, and the staff will help you if need be.

Rural areas are usually arranged by parish. Street indexes are available for some large cities for some of the censuses. Bring along a map of your area. It may prove useful to find nearby streets or parishes.

The new Kew headquarters of the PRO are located at Ruskin Ave., Kew, in Richmond, Surrey. The nearest tube station is Kew Gardens. To learn how to use the computer terminals there to order documents, may I refer you to the September, 1978 issue of The Genealogists' Magazine, pp. 249-251, "How to Order by Computer at the PRO, Kew".

Library of the Society of Genealogists

A vast wealth of information is available here, including Boyd's Marriage Index, parish register copies, family histories, county and local histories, etc., etc.

It is located at 37, Harrington Gardens. The nearest tube station is Gloucester Road. It is closed Sundays and Mondays. On Tuesdays and Fridays it is open from 10:00 to 6:00, on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10:00 to 8:00, and on Saturdays from 10:00 to 5:00.

The library is open to non-members on payment of a search fee. The fee for a half-day (3 1/2 hours) is 2.00, for a whole day (7 hr.) 3.50, and for a long day (10 1/2 hr.) 4.50 (1978 fees). I recommend that you pay the minimum fee at first, until you see what they have that you need. You can always pay for an additional half-day later.

At the front desk you can ask for a sheet entitled Finding Your Way About the Society's Library Collections. This will tell you what is where in the Library. The Society also publishes a leaflet called Using the Library of the Society of Genealogists. It is available at the Society for 25¢ or by mail for \$1.00 (1978 prices). Again I recommend that you order this and study it well before you leave home.

The library is scattered among several rooms in a converted 3-storey house. The quarters in general are quite cramped. Few tables are available, so once again, working space is at a premium. In addition, you are not allowed to take briefcases into the reading rooms. (You may leave them in a locker.) So I repeat, bring along only what you really need, in as compact a form as possible.

If you are planning your visit for the winter months, when places are not so crowded, wear everything you own when you visit this library! It is not heated, and you will be so cold it will be all you can do to hold on to your pencil.

The card catalogue is only a small set of drawers on a table in the Farrer Room on the ground floor. It catalogues all printed and bound manuscript works in the library. It is divided into three main sections: (1) alphabetical by author, (2) alphabetical by family name, (3) alphabetical by English county.

A list of publications of the Society of Genealogists is available free at the Enquiry Desk in the front hall. Many of these publications are also for sale at the desk, including the County Parish Maps and the Registration District Maps, which are invaluable aids to research. A coin-operated xerox machine is also located in the front hall.

For a good general account of the holdings and layout of the library, read Chapter 23 in General Hamilton-Edwards' book, In Search of Ancestry.

Library of the British Museum

This is a National Copyright Library, and it contains all non-fiction published in Britain since about 1750, which of course includes all published works in genealogy (except those that are privately published, although many of these have been donated as well). It also has a large collection of maps and manuscripts.

It is located in the British Museum on Great Russell St., just off Bloomsbury St. Three Underground stations are within easy walking distance: Russell Square station, Tottenham Court Road station, and Holborn station. Access to the Reading Room is from the main foyer of the British Museum. The Reading Room is open Monday through Saturday from 10:00 till 5:00.

A readers' ticket is required to gain admission. To get one you need to apply in writing to the Director's Office, giving your full name, occupation, and permanent address and indicating your intention to do personal genealogical research. This application must be accompanied by a written recommendation from someone in a recognized position. Since this Library is in great demand and frequently all the seats are taken, the authorities want assurance that you need books which are not easily available elsewhere. So if you can come up with a book that you need that is not available at, say, the Society of Genealogists Library, you will most likely get your ticket. Be aware that you will need a separate ticket to use the Manuscript Department. With your ticket you will be sent pamphlets on how to use the library and the facilities it offers.

It is advisable to reserve books in advance by writing to the Superintendent, giving all the particulars of the items you want, and stating when you will be there to get them. Otherwise you will have to fill in a request for the books to be brought to you. Even then you will not be given the books if you do not have a seat, and they are in heavy demand. So do arrive early, and also keep in mind that your books will not be left at your seat if you are not in it to receive them.

If you must wait, you can browse at the books on open shelves in the Reading Room, to which you can help yourself. Many of these books relate to genealogy. Keep an eye on your seat, though, to see that you do not miss your books when they are brought.

The catalogue of the Library's holdings is in the centre of the room. This is the most complete list that exists of books published in Britain. So consult it to see whether any history of your family exists already, and to see what is available about the areas in which you are interested.

In the Map Room you can look up a map of your area near the date you want. Both early Ordnance Survey Maps and tithe redemption maps are available here. These maps may also be reserved in advance by writing to the Superintendent.

If your ancestors were socially prominent, you may be interested in the index to engraved portraits in the British Museum's Department of Prints and Drawings.

Parish Records

When you are ready to consult the Parish registers, your first problem is to find out where the registers you need are kept. They may be with the incumbent, at a Diocesan Registry, at the County Record Office, or available in printed form. These printed parish registers are well worth looking for, because many of them are indexed by surname, which can save you a great deal of time.

There are several publications at the Society of Genealogists Library that might help you find out where the parish registers can be found. The National Index of Parish Registers, which the Society of Genealogists is in the process of compiling, is, unfortunately, still very incomplete. But Volume 5 covers the counties of Gloucester, Hereford, Oxford, Shropshire, Warwick and Worcester, and Volume 11, which is due soon, will likely cover Northumberland, Durham, and maybe Yorkshire. Another useful book is the Catalogue of Original Parish Registers in Record Offices and Libraries (1974, supple-

ments 1976 and 1978). If you are lucky, your parishes may be found in there, and then you will know where to go to find the original registers. If not, check Parish Register Copies, Part I: Society of Genealogists Collection, Part II: Other than Society of Genealogists Collection.

If you still cannot find out where the registers are kept, write to the incumbent of the parish or to the appropriate County Record Office to find out. Bear in mind also that even when the registers have been deposited in a diocese or county record office, the formal approval of the incumbent is still necessary to allow a search of the original registers because he remains ultimately responsible for their custody.

If you plan to visit the actual parish to see the records, make plans in advance with the vicar. (Some County Record Offices also prefer that you make arrangements in advance, so they can have the documents ready for you.) Be aware too, that there is a standard fee schedule for searches and you can be charged for your search even if you do the work yourself. These fees are (or were in 1976) 30p for the first year searched, and 15p for each subsequent year, and 50p for each certificate. If the vicar is helpful to you, or if he does not charge you the full fee, a donation to the church fund is a good idea.

The vicar is supposed to see that you are supervised while you make your search, to assure that you take adequate care of the documents. He may even refuse to let you handle them and only agree to do the search for you, for a fee.

While you are in the parish, look around the church for any memorial plaques on the walls and floors. There may even be a tomb topped with an effigy carved in stone. If there is a brass memorial plaque, showing an engraving of the individual or an inscription, a brass rubbing can be made from it as a beautiful copy of the plaque. To make a brass rubbing you need to get the vicar's permission, pay a small fee and have the proper equipment (special paper and wax, masking tape, scissors, and a duster). For a full list of brass memorials in Britain, see Mill Stephenson's A List of Monumental Brasses in the British Isles (1926). The Victoria and Albert Museum also has a large collection of brass rubbings and has published a book about their collection which is indexed by surname.

Also look around the churchyard for monumental inscriptions on the tombstones. Since some stones can be difficult to read, inquire whether the inscriptions have ever been copied. Many have been. These inscriptions can yield considerable information. For example, they usually give the dates of birth and death, whereas the parish registers give only baptisms and burials. They frequently give the age at death, and sometimes indicate the relationship to

the relationship to others - wives, children, or siblings. Tombstones as far back as 1700 and earlier are often very easy to read. When they are, photographing them (usually with a flash) is a good, quick way to copy them.

Although we have to be very patient to do British research from this side of the ocean, we are in fact amazingly well equipped for it here, thanks mainly to the L.D.S. Genealogical Branch Libraries, which make census records, many parish registers, and so much more available to us on microfilm, and thanks to good reference libraries like the Rutherford Library at the University of Alberta, which has many printed parish registers and county histories in its collection. It is quite surprising how much we can do right here in Alberta. But doing research in England can be very interesting and rewarding, if you are well prepared for it. So, if you have the chance, give it a try, and happy hunting!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Prices quoted herein are subject to change.

GENERATION GAPS

"Generation Gaps" is the query section of Generations where researchers can seek the help of others who may be researching the same families. Members may place up to two free queries each year. Additional queries, or those placed by non-members, may be inserted for a fee of \$2.50 each time the query is printed.

FALK Anna Penner Fehr, born Nov. 27/1852. Died 11 Aug. 1924, Oregon. Married Cornelius Fehr -Oct. 14 1873. Remarried - Jacob Falk - March 22/1891. Would like to know who her parents were. Janet Bates, 22 Fitzgerald Gr., Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3R 1W8.

KAMFOLIJ Researching my paternal Ukrainian line, Kamfoly with these different spellings. Wasyl Kamfolij KAMFOLY came to Garland area 1910. Was Ivon Kamfolio KAMFOLIA a brother? Are there any Kamfolio in the Winnipeg KAMFOLIO area? Mrs. Mabel St. Angelo, 4935 McRae street, Niagara Falls, Ontario, L2E 1N9.

LAMB Grandfather - Robert Lamb. Emigrated from Acton, Ontario to Manitoba in 1882 (homesteaded) in the Arden area. Stonemason by trade. McGorman Great-grandfather Samuel McGorman. Emigrated to Manitoba in 1882 from (Acton) Ontario. Would like information about the above names. Ms. Patricia Michaux, 3260 Woodburn ave, Victoria, B.C. V8P 5B9.

MATHESON Hugh Matheson and his wife Susan LLoyd. I am looking for the tombstone or church burial record for this couple. Susan LLoyd Matheson died Feb. 15/1883 at Selkirk. Hugh Matheson died March 29/1883 at East Selkirk. Both resided at Kildonan, were Presbyterians, and had resided in Manitoba for a short time. Deaths were reported in Winnipeg Free Press. No Death Certificate. Ms. P.M. Lindsay, 2189 Henry avenue, Sidney, B.C. V8L 2A8.

ELLIOTT Raymond Elliott of Donald, Manitoba. Born in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. died Feb 9, 1937. Surviving was a daughter Mrs. A. Russell, and a son Edgar William Elliott who was a salesman for Willson stationery, last known address as 430 Cordova street, Winnipeg. Any information on Raymond and his descendants appreciated. Ms. Mavis Smith, 19 Belcourt Bay, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3K 0M7.

MILLAR Thomas H. Miller, son of George Millar and Margaret Moore, b. 1856, New Brunswick. Lived in Bruce County, Ontario. Known to have lived in Carman in 1903. Did he marry? Any Children? Ms. Diane Mitchell, 124 Divadale dr., Toronto, Ontario, M4G 2P4.

WILLIAM Charles Williams m. Margaret Mitchell. Lived in Winnipeg during early 1900s. Were there any children? Ms. Diane Mitchell, 124 Divadale drive, Toronto, Ontario, M4G 2P4

WILLIAMS

ANDERSON William b. around 1838 in Manitoba and married Ann Venn. He taught school at Fairford. Children William H., Elizabeth, Charles J., Peter, Ann Sarah, Francis, Caleb, Jane Mary, John George, and Harriet Adelaide. Ms. Eleanor C. Anderson, Box 2, Valley River, Man., RoL 2B0.

JAMIESON John Jamieson born Mar. 20/1835, where? parents? siblings? married Harriet Rivers when? where? Children: William John, Mary, Ann Jane, George, Christina, David, Joseph, Walter, Harriet, Maud. Lived in Huron County, Ont. died when? where? Harriet Rivers was born Oct. 22 1836 where? parents? siblings? died where? and when? After Harriet died John Jamieson married Mary?. Oldest son William J. could not get along with step mother and left home. He was never heard of again. Seeking info on any descendants. Reva G. Gregg, 924 North Gamble, Mitchell, SD, 57301.

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