

# WESTEND SENIORS GENEALOGY GROUP

Meeting monthly on the first Wednesday - September through June



## A Word from the Facilitator - Paul Rose

I want to thank everyone for your continued participation and support of the WSAC Genealogy Group, and it is my hope that you are gaining value from your membership. Our numbers have certainly grown over the past year, and I would encourage everyone to 'spread the word' about the Genealogy Group and invite others who have an interest in genealogy to join our meetings. This year we have seen increasing member involvement in presentations and discussions at our meetings. For those who made a presentation, I want to thank you for the work and effort you made to contribute to our meetings. The topics, the PowerPoints and the subsequent discussions were great. Thank you for helping make our meetings enjoyable and informative. I hope that we will see continued participation in next year's meetings. For those members who attended the joint AGS/LDS Genealogy Fair in October, thank you for sharing your learning with the group. My assessment is that the topics they offered were both interesting and educational, and they have contributed to increasing our personal genealogy talents and knowledge. I am assuming that there will be another genealogy fair in the Fall of 2025 and I encourage everyone to consider attending. I will try to keep you informed of details as they come available. Also, I introduced a segment to our meetings called 'Learning Moment'. This is intended to allow members to share any research leads, websites, or resources that they are using or have discovered which have been helpful in their research efforts. At the beginning of each meeting, members can present their suggestion for all other attending members to learn. These suggestions can be useful books, websites, research locations such as museums, libraries, archives, or even other genealogy groups. Learning Moments have been about ten minutes in length. I hope to see more participation in this opportunity in our future meetings. Finally, as we approach another season beginning in September 2025, I encourage everyone to send me any topics they would like to see presented at future meetings. They can be anything relating to genealogy, and may not fill the entire two hour time for our meetings. Your feedback and suggestions are vital to keep our meetings interesting and linked to topics that are of interest to you and your fellow members. Please email me with your suggestions ([prose0849@gmail.com](mailto:prose0849@gmail.com)). With this in mind, I again thank everyone for your continued support of the Genealogy Group and I look forward to seeing you at our last three meetings for this season and into the future.

Sincerely  
Paul Rose



## **Rootstech 2025:**



The 2025 RootsTech Conference hosted by The Church of Latter Days Saints in Salt Lake City, Utah concluded on March 8.25. For those of you who were able to either attend the conference in person or online, it was an enjoyable and informative conference.

If you wish to catch some of the sessions that were offered during the conference, several of the presentations from RootsTech 2025 will be available to watch on-demand after the conference. To access most of the classes and keynotes from the event anytime you can do so through the RootsTech On-Demand library on FamilySearch; these recordings are typically available for several years after the conference.

## **AGS Genealogy Faire:**

AGS Genealogy Faire:

Where: Church of Latter Day Saints,  
3002 – 47 Avenue, Red Deer, AB,

When: Saturday April 26, 2025 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Registration will open March 21.25 at [www.abgenealogy.ca/genfair-agm](http://www.abgenealogy.ca/genfair-agm)

ALBERTA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



## **DO YOU HAVE WELSH ANCESTRY?**

Saturday March 1st is known as St. David's Day, the Patron Saint of Wales. A Christian prelate, he served as Bishop of Mynyw in the 6th century and he has become the symbol of Welsh heritage and culture.

St. David's day is time of traditional festivities with many wearing daffodils, leeks and dragon inspired clothing. Celebrate your Welsh Heritage.



## **For those of you with Ancestry from England**

Celebrate St. George's Day, April 23. It is a observance of the life and death of St. George, the patron saint of England and is a day to celebrate English heritage, patriotism, and identity.

## **IRISH HERITAGE?**

Celebrate your Irish roots on St. Patrick's Day on

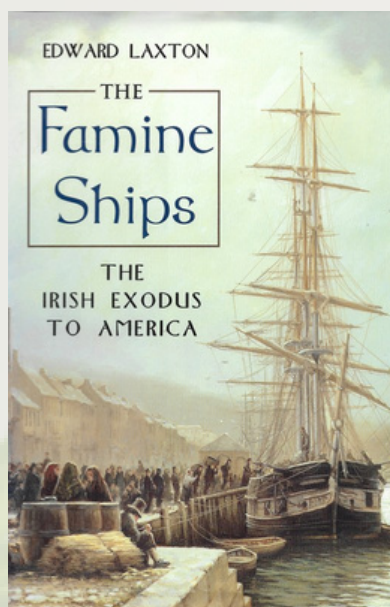
March 17.25 traditionally a religious and cultural holiday held in honour of Ireland's Patron Saint, St. Patrick (385c to 461c AD). St. Patrick is recognized for having brought Christianity to Ireland. His efforts to establish Christianity in Ireland were turned into an allegory in which he is said to have driven "the snakes" (heathen practices) out of Ireland despite the fact that actual snakes were not known to inhabit in Ireland. In his honour, the Irish celebrate the day of his death in 461c. AD a time to honour Irish heritage and culture in general. It is a time of public parades and festivals, celebrations as well as the custom of wearing green clothing or a shamrock. In Ireland there is a custom of "drowning the shamrock" or "wetting the shamrock" where a shamrock is placed into the bottom of a cup which is then filled with whisky, beer or cider. It is then drank along with a toast to St. Patrick and the shamrock would then be either drank down or tossed over the shoulder for good luck. No matter what your ancestral heritage might be, St. Patrick's day is a good time to celebrate "that little bit of Irish in all of us."







## The Famine Ships

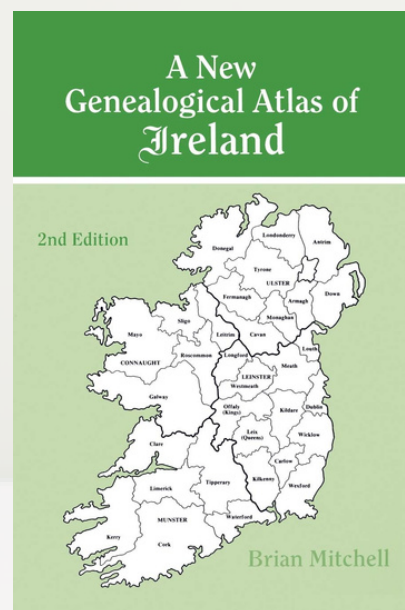


In line with St. Patrick's Day and the celebration of all things Irish, a book that may be of interest to those of you with Irish ancestry, or perhaps even for any other folks interested in genealogy and European immigration to North America, is 'The Famine Ships' by Edward Laxton. This book tells the story of the immigration of over one million Irish to North America during the years 1846 and 1851. It is the story of courage and determination of those who crossed the Atlantic in leaking, crowded sailing ships to make new lives for themselves and their descendants. The book focuses on poignant individual stories of individual struggles and challenges to find a new life in North America. With five years of research in both Ireland and amongst Irish immigrant descendants in the United States and Canada, it is a fascinating story of survival and determination during the days of the Irish Potato Famine.

## A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland

The most important record source, the mid-19th century survey of Ireland known as Griffith's Valuation, is organized by poor law union, parish, barony, and county. But wills probated before 1858 are organized by diocese, and after 1858 by probate district; while parish registers, marriage license bonds, and census records all have an organization linked to one or another of these administrative divisions. To help in identifying the precise location of these divisions, and thus their jurisdiction, Mr. Mitchell has drawn at least three maps for every county.

The first county map depicts the civil parishes; the second shows the baronies and dioceses of that county; the third illustrates the poor law unions and the parishes included in the probate districts serving that county.





## REMEMBER TO MOVE YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ON HOUR!!

Daylight Savings Time is Sunday March 9.25.

Good News: One more hour of daylight in the evening.

Bad News: Appointments are one hour earlier.

Searching for lost relatives?

Win the lottery and wait for all the 2nd cousins to appear

Twisted Twigs  
on genetic research



## RESEARCHING YOUR IRISH ANCESTRY? Some Useful Websites:

National Library of Ireland [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)

Catholic Parish registers, old photos, newspapers, and manuscript catalogs

Public Record Office of Northern Ireland  
[www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/public-record-office-northern-ireland-proni](http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/public-record-office-northern-ireland-proni)

Early wills, census records, and freeholder records

RootsIreland [www.rootsireland.ie](http://www.rootsireland.ie)

Search Irish Catholic records, 23 million records from 34 county genealogy centers.

Virtual Record Treasury of Ireland [www.virtualtreasury.ie](http://www.virtualtreasury.ie)

Re-images and digitally reconstructs the Public Record Office of Ireland destroyed in 1922





## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT WSAC GENEALOGY



We are entering the last quarter of our 2024-2025 Season and will be adjourning after our June meeting for the summer. In the meantime here is the line-up for our meetings from April to June:

### **Wednesday April 2.25:**

We will be welcoming Matthew Ostapchuk, Curator of Military and Government History at the Royal Alberta Museum in Edmonton who will be speaking on Canada's military history in World Wars I and II as well as providing guidance to researching military records as part of family history research. He will speak on World War II internments and German POWs, and provide guidance on how to use the Military records at the National Library of Canada and how family members may request World War II records.

### **Wednesday May 7.25:**

With the facilitation by our member, Don Bowling, we welcome Art Taylor from the Ontario Genealogy Society who will present a Zoom presentation of 'Writing on the Back of Digital Photos with Photo Metadata'. Just as old family photos often have names and details written on the back, Photo Metadata allows you to digitally add this important information to your digital photos and scanned documents. During the session, you will learn the types of information to include, why it's critical, and explore various programs that can help you manage and organize your family history digitally. In addition, Don and Art are working on an additional information presentation following the Digitizing topic along the same topic of 'Computers and Genealogy'.

This should be a very interesting session for all genealogy enthusiasts.

### **Wednesday June 4.25:**

The plan for our June meeting was going to be 'Polish Immigration and Settlement in Western Canada', a topic that will be of particular interest to any members with Polish ancestry. Unfortunately, I have been having difficulty finding a speaker who can present on this topic. I have solicited the Edmonton Polish Historical Society, the University of Alberta, The Alberta Family History Society, and the Edmonton Branch of the AGS but have been unable to find a speaker. I have not given up and hope to still be able to provide this presentation, but the topic may need to be postponed until the Fall. If this is the case, a suitable alternative will be advised before our June meeting.



## The Female Mystique:

Rediscover the lives of the Women in your Family Tree with advice for overcoming brick walls in female ancestor research.

*Source: Family Tree Magazine, March/April 2025 by Gena Philbert-Ortega*

*There is an interesting article in the latest issue of Family Tree Magazine about the challenge of tracing female members in a family tree who's adult years are unknown.*

Researching female members of a family tree can be challenging. Often a woman is listed in a census record as the daughter of the Head of the Household and is recorded under her father's surname. But the challenge sometimes appears that when she married and took her husband's surname, if that surname is unknown and there is no marriage record, then this female ancestor's subsequent story goes unfound.

In this article five common obstacles when researching women and how to overcome them are detailed:

### #1. I don't know where to start:

Start with what you know – create a timeline of your relative that includes her name and every life event you know about her. This is a living document meaning it can be amended or expanded as needed. Time lines of individuals can be seen on Ancestry.ca in the Public Member Trees Section.

### #2. What's Her Name?

Some potential sources to find your missing female relative:

- A. Marriage Records – usually include her maiden name.
- B. Delayed Birth Records – these records were completed when a birth was not recorded at the time of the event and were completed in later years. They will often include a maiden name.
- C. Death Records: Often include the maiden name and parents' names.
- D. Obituaries: Often a maiden name is stated in a woman's obituary or her name is included in the obituary of her parents or siblings.
- E. Children's Birth and Death Records: Again a mother's maiden name is often recorded
- F. Military Pension Records: if a woman was receiving a military pension from her husband, often her maiden name is included in this record.

### #3. How Do I Research That Location:

Consider the location and time period of your ancestor. Use Family Search Wiki for the location your female relative lived in. Drill down to county, town/city to what is available. Consider available records listed in the Search Section of Ancestry, Family Search or My Heritage. Remember not all records may be online and you may be required to visit or contact the archives that hold physical or microfilm copies.

### #4 She Disappears Between Census Records:

Consider alternative search options – searching by the name of a relative (a living child) or just by first name and birth year. Try with “exact” matches in databases allowing you to account for misspellings or name variations. Also browse images – use a site's record viewer to drill down to the enumeration district where you think your relative lived then page through records image by image. Your relative may have died between census records so research death indexes and death records or burial records using Find A Grave. Do a name search in historical newspapers for obituaries where she might be mentioned. Look at the Mortality Schedules where deaths that occurred in the year preceding a census are noted.

### #5 Why Isn't She in That Record:

Sometimes a woman is missing in a census record because she is not supposed to be listed there. She may be working and living elsewhere away from her home.

Some suggestions:

- A. Look at Census Records for other relatives. Is your mystery woman listed as a family member with a different surname because she is with relatives and is recorded under their surname.
- B. Do a search on any major genealogical website using as many details of the woman you know except her maiden name. You could find other women with similar data (birth year, location, etc.) but with different surnames. Pursue each in other records to determine if that record relates to your relative.
- C. Consider using the Public Member Trees in Ancestry to search for your relative who is married or attached to an unknown family. This source needs to be treated with great caution and should be further verified with source records.





# WRITING MEMOIRS WORKSHOP

If you've been thinking about writing a memoir, a series of short stories, or a full history of your ancestors, you might want to attend this workshop. We'll talk about writing memoirs, autobiographies/biographies, travel writing and short stories.

Whether your goal is to write a book, short story, or just to begin putting your thoughts and ideas into words, this workshop is for you.

**When:** Tuesday May 13, 2025

**Time:** 1 to 4 PM

**Location:** To Be Announced

**Cost:** \$45 per person (includes tax and all course materials)

*limited seating please book early*

**Instructor:** Dale Margery Rutherford aka Margery Reynolds  
(author, freelance editor, writing coach, instructor)

For more details or to register for this workshop

**email:** [dmr58@hotmail.ca](mailto:dmr58@hotmail.ca)

