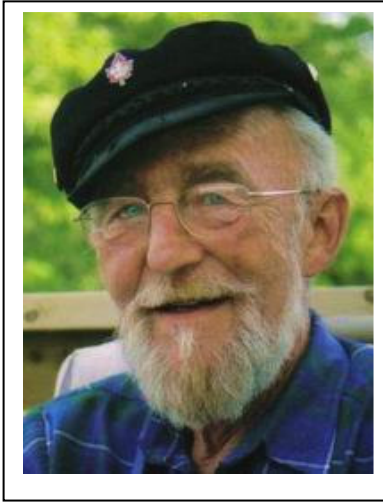


Family History Centres



Family History Centres (FHC) are branches of the amazing Library of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Each centre is staffed by volunteers and contains family history materials relevant to its region. It is also a gateway to the over two million reels of microfilm of church and civil records that are housed in Salt Lake City. Over two hundred cameras are on constant active assignment all over the world, adding to this resource. The last time I had reels brought in the cost was only \$6.50 each to help defray shipping costs. The centres are open to all family researchers and are well worth a visit to see what resources they have to help with your project.

If you want to know if the library has material of interest to you, they will look it up or you can visit their website at: <http://www.familysearch.org> and follow the links to the library.

The FHC for Ottawa is at 1017 Prince of Wales Drive, (613) 224-2231. The one for Lanark County it is at 7283 Roger Stevens Drive, Smiths Falls, (613) 283-8320. In Renfrew County it is at 199 Civic Centre Road, Petawawa, (613) 687-2237. Their hours of operation vary so it is necessary to call ahead. Check them out.

Recording Your Sources

Once you have found information, you will want to record the source thoroughly so that you, or someone else could easily find it again to verify the contents. It also helps you and any one else to assess the reliability of a piece of information if we know where it comes from. The famous Cyndi's List at: <http://www.cyndislist.com/citing.htm> has a number of links to help with citations or most libraries will have a copy of Kate Turabian's book, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, that is widely used as a guide.

The Silicon Valley PAF Users Group has produced *Family History Documentation Guidelines*, which is now in its second edition. While designed especially for users of the PAF Programme (Personal Ancestral File), it is very useful to all family historians and sells for about \$10. American.

Tweedsmuir Histories

Local histories usually contain useful genealogical data and describe the community and times in which our ancestors lived. Many will have photographs of the general stores in which they shopped, and of the schools and churches they attended. Of course they can also propagate myths and misinformation unless they are properly documented but they must not be ignored as we research our family history.

In the mid-1920's the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario (FWIO) established a committee for historical research and encouraged members to create scrapbooks to document the history of settlement, the economy, the social institutions (churches, schools, etc.), people, and various events at the local level. In 1947 they were named the Tweedsmuir Histories in honour of Susan, the wife of former Governor-General, John Buchan, Lord Tweedsmuir. She was a writer and playwright and had been very active during their tour of duty (1935-40) in promoting literacy and culture throughout Canada.

These books usually do not have an index but most have a table of contents. They are an essential tool in getting to know your ancestor's community and can usually be found in either book or microfilm in the local library or archives. Drop into your local Library and check them out.