



Out-of-Country Queries

If you are sending a query to someone by mail, good sense and common courtesy require that you enclose a *self-addressed stamped envelope* (sase) in your letter. This works fine if you are writing to someone in Canada but if they are in another country, they would have to use their national postage stamps. If you live in Canada, for example, and are writing to someone in the USA, either put US postage stamps on the enclosed sase or enclose a US \$1.00 bill which you can obtain from your bank.

The normal advice that is given is to use International Reply Coupons, which may be purchased at your local post office. They used to be a reasonable and secure way to pre-pay postage between any two countries, but they are now far too expensive to use. For example, Canadian post offices charge at least \$3.50 for an IRC, which in the US can be redeemed at a post office for one 46-cent stamp to pay the postage to Canada! So it's obviously much

cheaper to include a US \$1.00 bill in your *out-of-country* query.

A tip from the Lanark County Genealogical Society is: if you are going to write to a number of people in the USA, you can order US postage stamps by telephone at **1-800-782-6724**. There is a US\$1.00 service charge per order, no matter how large.

For correspondents in the U.K., stamps can be ordered directly from the British Philatelic Bureau by e-mail provided you are paying by either Visa or Mastercard. Their e-mail address is British.Philatelic.Bureau@dial.pipex.com. You can also send your orders by post to:
British Philatelic Bureau, 20 Brandon Street, EDINBURGH, EH3 5TT, SCOTLAND, UK

Payment can be made by personal cheque drawn in dollars if you do not have one of the above credit cards.

Local Church Histories

A fascinating and useful resource for Family Historians can be found in the often overlooked histories of local churches. These books are often written on the occasion of some significant milestone in the history of the parish or congregation and contain all kinds of nuggets.

While they naturally focus on the founding and development of their spiritual community, they usually include the names of lots of people, photographs of people and the community, and a good deal of local history that might otherwise not be recorded. Even if your ancestor did not belong to that church, you may find useful information about them, their neighbors, or their community that will help you to better understand them and their history.

The level of scholarship and documentation varies among these books and sometimes the authors appear to be a little too enthusiastic in their interpretations, but these are normal factors that Family Historians can recognize and deal with.

You can usually find these histories in the local library and they really are worth checking out.

St. James Anglican Church, Carleton Place

Reader Tom Appleby is the designer of the website for St. James Anglican Church in Carleton Place and the site is well worth a visit. In addition to historical information about the church and parish it includes a data base of interments in their cemetery, dating back to about 1834. This data base, which was developed by Bob Stacey and designed by Tom, is very user friendly and easy to search. I tried a few searches to see how it worked and was delighted with the results. It is especially valuable because it includes references to maiden names, spouses, children, and other various relatives.

The website is at: www.stjamescarletonplace.ca and, if you click on the cross, you will see a page with a menu on the left that includes the cemetery.