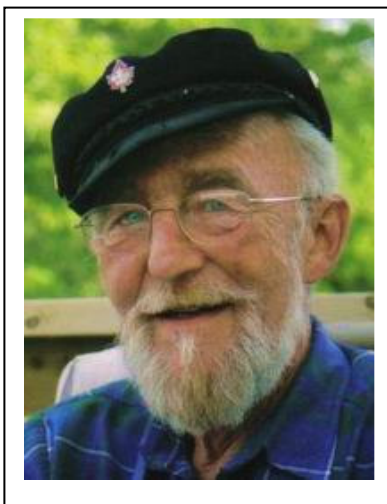


The Family Historian

Patrick Wohler

Column #40

1906 Census-Western Canada



A number of local families had members who joined in the opening and settlement of the west, following the building of the railroad. You should be able to get an update on them from the 1906 Census, which is available online.

The census is posted on Library and Archives Canada's web site at:

< <http://www.collectionscanada.ca/index-e.html> >. You can type "Census" in the search box on the top bar and follow the links to it.

The census is searchable only by Province, District Name, District # and Sub-District #. In order to reduce the search to manageable proportions you must know, at least, the District in which your ancestor lived.

Most of us would have to start with another online data base, "Western Land Grants". It is also on the same site.

Here you can search for your ancestor by name and find the exact designation of their grant. Different terminology is used to describe the grants than is used in Ontario and there is an online help to understand that system.

With all the information on the location, you can go to the Census site and check out Census Districts and Maps and find where that grant is located. Now you have the information you need to narrow down your search of the census.

They offer a viewing program called Mr. Sid, which I downloaded and used. It works in much the same way as Adobe Acrobat. You download one page of the census at a time, resize it, using the vertical bars at the upper right, so that you can read it and still have as much of it as possible on the screen at one time, then move it about the screen with the mouse. It really doesn't take long to master the program.

Cemeteries Database

The Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society is developing a cemeteries database on their website at: www.ogsottawa.on.ca . So far they have 90 cemeteries and almost 200,000 names included from the counties of Carleton, Lanark, Pontiac, Prescott, and Renfrew.

Twenty three Lanark cemeteries are included and the search technique is very simple. I tried it out with a 'Wylie' search and was pleased with the results. They do not provide any information other than the name of the cemetery where an individual is buried and a reference to the publication that details the interment or tombstone informaton.

These publications are usually available in the local library or in the LCGS collection at Heritage House Museum in Smith's Falls. They can also be found in the OGS-Ottawa Branch library in the Ottawa City Archives.

Sometimes just knowing where someone is buried can put us on the track of further research. Why not visit the site and try it out, it can be great for ancestors who seem to have disappeared without a trace.

Problems with Internet Explorer

Richard Eastman, who writes an online genealogy column, has pointed out a number of times that Internet Explorer has inadequate security provisions to protect users from worms and other cyber space villains. He strongly recommends that we stop using it and as someone who has had to pay serious dollars to 'clean out' my computer, I am interested.

He recommends Firefox, which is available for Windows, Macintosh and Linux and is a better, faster, and more secure browser. Furthermore, it is available free and can be downloaded from their website at: <http://www.mozilla.org> .

I have tried it and it is working very well for me.

I welcome comments, queries, and suggestions at: p_wohler@hotmail.com

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