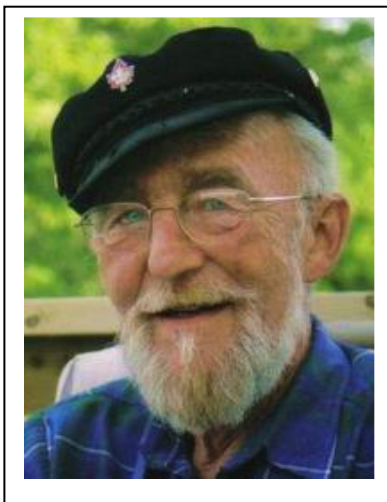


The Family Historian

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Column #7

Passenger Lists



An enormous amount of work has been done on passenger lists of ships bringing immigrants to North America. There are even societies dedicated to finding and publishing such lists but very little has been found for Canada prior to 1865. The National Archives has prepared a card index of what they have been able to find for the period 1800-1848 and this is available at the Archives and as a database at: www.inGeneas.com. This is essentially a commercial genealogical site but the Archives has an agreement with them to make that information available at no charge. The Colonial Office in Great Britain has some lists pertaining to people who came over in some of the subsidized emigration schemes. These are in their 384 Series (MG 11) and are indexed on microfilm reel C-4252.

Many immigrants to Canada entered via American ports so those sources may be worth investigating. Most of the larger public libraries will have volumes of passenger lists in their Genealogy or Reference Section but be prepared to spend a fair bit of time on the search. The Nepean Branch of the Ottawa Public Library has a good

selection.

There are quite a few web sites dedicated to passenger lists and the easiest way to obtain access to them is through *Cyndi's List*, a catalogue of genealogy related web sites, at www.cyndislist.com.

Records from the Canadian quarantine station at Grosse Ile and the American point of entry at Ellis Island are now available on-line and we will discuss these in a future column.

Montreal Cemeteries

If you have any Catholic ancestors who died in Montreal, there is a good chance that they were buried in Notre Dame des Neiges Cemetery, which is one of the largest in North America. It is sometimes incorrectly called Cotes des Neiges Cemetery but that is the name of an adjacent street. They have an on-line search capability to find where in the cemetery and when your ancestor was buried and sometimes they include the name of the spouse.

To reach this data base go to: <http://www.cimetierenddn.org/en/recherche/recherche.asp>. You will see a note that their Search Engine is not up yet - ignore it. Point your cursor over 'Services' in the left-hand menu and, from the list that appears, select 'Locate a deceased'. For some reason the less information you include, the better the search. I only give the family name and do not include "Mc", "Mac", or "O". I know it sounds silly, but it works.

You will be rewarded by a list of names with burial plot sections and numbers and date of burial. For the people you think or know are yours, note the section and number and do a new search where that is the only information you give. You will now get a list of everyone who is buried in that plot and sometimes the people one is buried with can be very useful information. You may uncover hitherto unknown relatives or new avenues of research like 'Why is Joan McNabb buried in what is clearly the Lemieux family plot? Was she a friend? A domestic?'

You might want to visit the cemetery to try to find a tombstone. They publish an excellent little map delineating all the sections and there are markers throughout the cemetery indicating the section and the plot numbers. Remember that it is large and hilly, on the slopes of Mount Royal, so it may be easier to drive around until you find your section.

For non-Catholic burials after 1852 the first place to look is Mount Royal Cemetery. Check them out at: www.mountainroyalcem.com. Select <Products and Services> then <Genealogy Research> There were a number of other smaller cemeteries but generally the only records of them are lists of monumental inscriptions and most of these are available at the Quebec Family History Society or on LDS microfilm number 1643110 which you can consult through your Family History Centre.