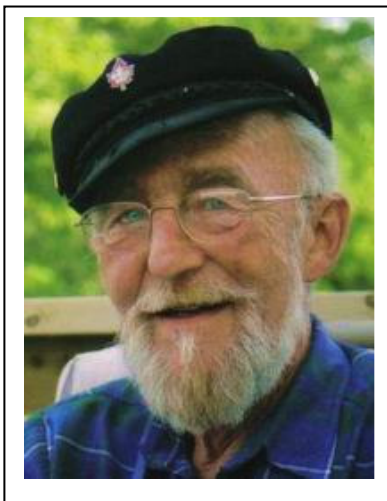


### Getting Started in Local Family Research



I recently heard from a reader who was picking up the ball on Family History research . He had material from a deceased relative who had done a fair bit of research and was looking for a bit of help on how to get into it. The family settled in the Manotick-Ottawa area, so happily a lot of the sources are relatively easily available.

Generally in Family History we are looking for two types of things. One is the vital statistics of our ancestors - the dates and places of their births, marriages and deaths (the BMDs). The other object of our search is information about their lives, what they were like, what they did, and so on.

The search for vital statistics goes backwards from the present one step at a time. Assuming that you know when and where you were born, and who your parents were, the next thing to look for is your parents' marriage record. You may already know where and when they were married, then go on to their birth records, which will have some specifics on your grandparents. Then do the same for your grandparents- marriage record, then birth records and work backwards through the generations in this sequence.

If they lived in the Ottawa area, then there is a lot of resource material at the City of Ottawa Archives on Sussex Drive (in the former City Hall). The Main Branch of the Ottawa Public Library also has a lot of resources for genealogical research on the third floor. Many church registers have been transcribed and indexed , City Directories can help to pin down what part of the city they lived in, and therefore what church they were likely to attend. Both the Library and the Archives have these Directories.

A lot of burials have been indexed as well and many of them are online. The Ottawa Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society has a searchable cemetery database at: [www.ogsottawa.on.ca/cemeteries/search/php](http://www.ogsottawa.on.ca/cemeteries/search/php). If they were in Ontario but not the Ottawa area then you can try the Ontario Cemetery Finding Aid at: [www.islandnet.com/cgi-bin/ms2/jveinot/search](http://www.islandnet.com/cgi-bin/ms2/jveinot/search) . Once you find when they died, you can check the microfilms of newspapers of the time for obituaries, which often have very helpful information.

Local histories may also have information about your family. Try *Carleton Saga* , which is available in your library. There is also a book called *Heritage Manotick* (1995) by David Bartlett. Your best bet of finding it would be in the library in Manotick.

There is also an archives in North Gower for Rideau Township that may have resources that could help you. The local genealogical and historical societies also have extensive resources and knowledgeable members who can help in our research.

Researching in your own locality can be very rewarding and a lot of fun.

#### **A Franco-Prussian Query**

Another reader recently contacted me about finding the military records of two of her great grandfathers who fought in the Franco-Prussian War on the German side. One of them was from Frankfurt an der Oder and the other from Stafflestein.

. Unfortunately, there is not a lot of easily available information on the soldiers of the Franco-Prussian War. If her great grandfathers were in the Prussian army, then those records were destroyed in February 1945 during a fire from a bombing raid on Berlin.

However, if they were in the armies of the individual German States that were allied with Prussia, there is a chance that the archives of that state would have some records. I am quite sure that Frankfurt an der Oder was in Prussia, but Stafflestein is in the north of Bavaria and if he was in the Bavarian army, there is a possibility that the state archives in Munich, which maintains extensive records, would have some material.

Their address is:  
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Postfach 22 11 52  
D-80501 Muenchen.