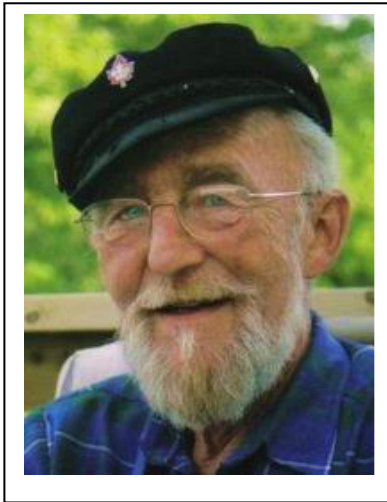


### The UK Archives Does it Again



Around 1086, toward the end of his reign, William the Conqueror ordered a survey of all land owners and their lands in England. Commissioners fanned out through the kingdom and held focus group meetings, community meetings, individual interviews and inspections.

With the exception of a few northern shires and the major cities, they recorded who owned what land, how much of it; what crops they grew and in what quantities; what stock and how many were they raising; who else was living on the land and how much more could they produce.

It was really the first Assessment Book and is an amazing benchmark for the research of a number of English families and, of course, for the study of the history of England itself. It is, in fact, the earliest surviving public record in England and is known as the Domesday Book.

The dominant theory for the name of the book is that everyone is treated equally as they will be at the Last Judgement. Personally, I

think this is rather fanciful and my guess is that people called it that because, now that their assets were a matter of record, they were doomed to tax levies on them.

Researchers, avid to see how it can help them, are sometimes brought up short by the fact that it is written in Latin. Latin was actually the official language for public documents in England until 1733, when English took over.

I am sure that a number of readers studied Latin in school. I had six years of it. But most of us have had little opportunity to speak the language since then and there are very few schools now that include Latin in their curriculum. Not only the English public documents but also many church registers were written in Latin, so some of us could use a bit of help.

The UK Archives has come through in spades. They have developed an online Latin tutorial along the lines of their course on Palaeography. It has twelve lessons and progresses from the easiest to the more difficult. Each lesson has a little self-test that is automatically corrected to ensure that you are ready to move on to the next one. The whole thing is very user-friendly and is supported with a Glossary, Word List, and Grammar Table. This wonderful resource is available at:

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/latin/beginners/reference/default.htm> .

Hic tentatis, hic placebitis. (Try it, you'll like it.)

### Early Dentistry

A reader contacted me recently about a person in the 1901 Census who was listed as a dentist and was nineteen years old. Was this really likely or possible?

In the early days barbers frequently also did 'toothdrawing' and other medical procedures. Dentists, in fact, were a little thin on the ground in early Canada. In 1858 there were only 49 of them or 1 for every 64,600 people and this created a ripe market for charlatans. Anyone with a case of dental instruments could call himself a dentist and no one would know the difference.

The qualified dentists were often medical practitioners who had taken some dental training or graduates of an indentureship apprentice program. There were also some who had graduated from the new dental schools in the United States. I have encountered several dentists of the 1850s and 1860s who took these apprenticeship programs. They were usually less than one year in length.

The short time commitment to learn dentistry attracted a number of candidates. Delorma Hayes, a photographer in Smiths Falls, and later in Brockville, was also a dentist and advertised as both in the same ads in the 1860s and 1870s.

Dr. Barnabas Day, one of the early movers and shakers in professionalizing dentistry had an articling period of only six months.

Ontario took leadership in Canada in 1868 with the establishment of the Royal College of Dental Surgeons of Ontario. Dentistry was now becoming a self-regulating profession with standards and licensing . But could a 19-year old be a dentist in 1901?—Yes.