

# Genealogy & Local History

YOU DON'T HAVE TO KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR  
...YOU JUST HAVE TO START LOOKING.

# Hello

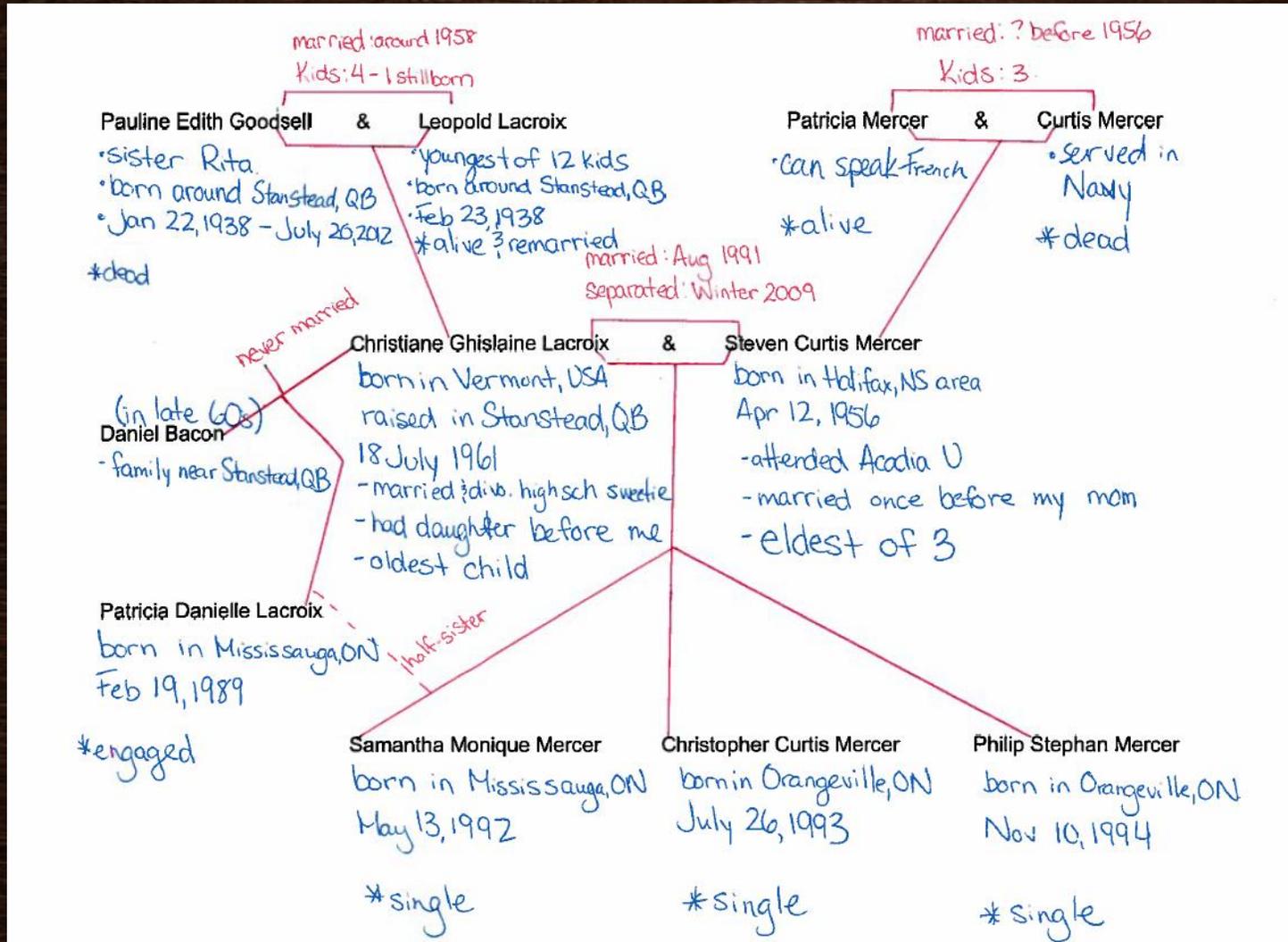
My name is Samantha Mercer. I have no idea when my family came to Canada but I have been told that my family came from England, Ireland, Scotland and France.

My maternal grandfather built a family tree and told me that one of my father's family members was kicked out of the Scottish highlands for stealing sheep.

My mother was born in the USA but raised in Quebec while my father was born and raised in Nova Scotia.



# With that information, I started off like this...

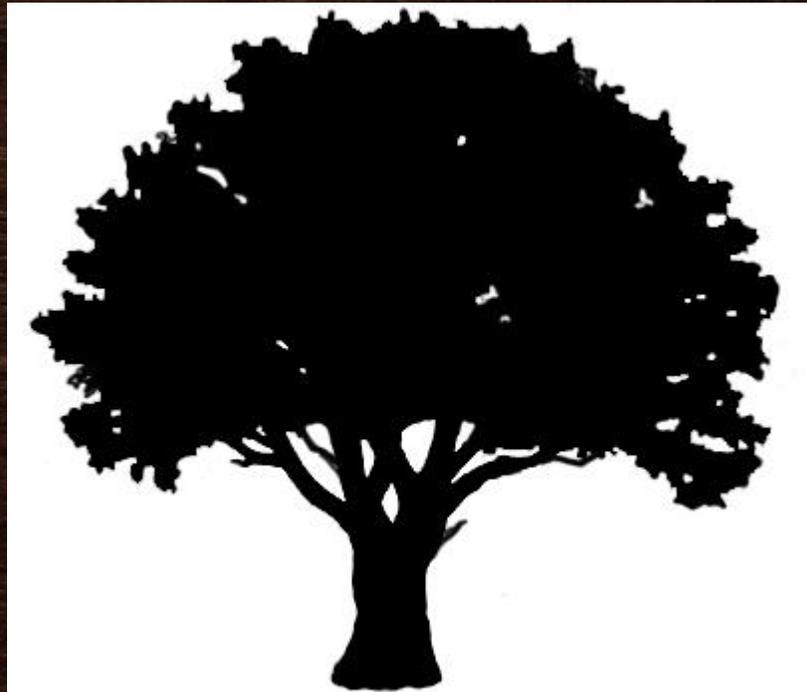


A few phone calls, emails and searches later...



-LAURENCE OVERMIRE

“History remembers only the celebrated,  
genealogy remembers them all.”





## Think & Evaluate

- Why are you collecting this information?
- What do you want to do with this information?
- Should you do everything online?
- How are you going to organize your research?
- Has anyone in your family done genealogical research?
- What do you already know and have access to?
- Are there any local groups, societies or clubs you can join?
- Does your family have a history of immigration?
- Do you have any notable ancestors?
- What is your strategy?

# Strategy

- Follow a single name
  - I would look for JUST “Mercer” or “Lacroix”
- Descendants or ancestors
  - Descendants: choose a person and work back from them
  - Ancestors: choose a person and work forward from them
- Follow a specific religion in your family
- Follow a specific part of your heritage
  - Do you have family from Asia? Just follow them

Researching ancestors relatively uncommon.

Most people begin with the single name strategy and then start moving side to side to fill in gaps before returning to the single name strategy.

# To start...

- Sketch a tree: start with yourself & work backwards. Ask family to help with the blanks.
- Gather copies of documents and start your organizational plan.
- Reach out to any relatives that have done genealogy research.
- Get comfortable with all the charts and forms (and use them!)
- Anticipate problems and collect a list of resources you can use.
- Find information about federal and provincial privacy laws.



# Documents

You will want different documents depending on what information you are looking for.

- Immigration records
- Censuses
- Military records
- Land ownership
- Birth, Death & Marriage licenses\*
- Newspapers
- Religious documents
- Diaries

\*Vital Statistics held by provincial governments

SHEET NO. 5 CANADIAN GOVERNMENT RETURN  
 CABIN CLASS Man.  
 S. S. MOHROSE SAILING FROM LIVERPOOL 6th March 1925

LINE	FAMILY NAME	GIVEN NAME	RELATIONSHIP	AGE			COUNTRY AND PLACE OF BIRTH	NATIONALITY (COUNTRY OF WHICH A CITIZEN OR SUBJECT)	RACE OR PEOPLE	IF IN CANADA BEFORE		YOUR PREVIOUS ENTRY IN CANADA	DO YOU INTEND TO OBTAIN PERMANENT RESIDENCE IN CANADA?	CAN YOU READ?	WHAT LANGUAGE	
				M.	F.	DAYS				BETWEEN WHAT PERIODS	AT WHAT ADDRESS					
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15		
1	Ashley	Frederick	Hus	31	M	England	St. Helens	British	English			✓	✓	✓	English	
2	Ashley	Florence	Wife	22	M	"	"	✓	"	✓		✓	✓	✓	"	
3	Ashley	Arie	Son	4	M	"	"	✓	"			✓	✓	✓	"	
4	Ashley	Norman	"	2	M	"	"	✓	"			✓	✓	✓	"	
5	Bramall	Laurence	Hus	38	M	"	Worrall	✓	"	✓	1911 to 1921	Readlyn, Sask	✓	✓	✓	English
6	Bramall	Jesse	Wife	30	M	"	Sheffield	✓	"	✓	1906 to 1921	"	✓	✓	✓	"
7	Bramall	Mabel	Daughter	3	M	Canada	Readlyn Sask	✓	"	✓	Born	"	✓	✓	✓	"
8	Bramall	Lawrence	Son	3	M	England	Sheffield	✓	"	✓			✓	✓	✓	"
9	Bramall	Edwin	"	12	M	"	"	✓	"	✓			✓	✓	✓	"
10	Glegg	Herbert	"	28	M	"	Huddersfield	✓	"	✓			✓	✓	✓	English
11	Harris	Standish	"	24	M	Ireland	Kilmallock	✓	"	✓			✓	✓	✓	"
12	Jensen	Mark	"	21	M	Denmark	Vierst	✓	Danish	✓			✓	✓	✓	Danish
13	Kendall	William	Hus	46	M	England	Wolverton	✓	British	✓	1909 to 1919	Cadillac, Sask	✓	✓	✓	English
14	Kendall	Elizabeth	Wife	27	M	"	"	✓	"	✓	1910 to 1919	"	✓	✓	✓	"
15	Kendall	William	Son	14	M	Canada	Cadillac	✓	"	✓	1911 to 1919	"	✓	✓	✓	"
16	Mercer	Alice	"	28	M	England	Blackburn	✓	"	✓			✓	✓	✓	"
17	Mercer	James	"	24	M	"	"	✓	"	✓			✓	✓	✓	"
18	Mann	Henry	"	40	M	"	St. Chart	✓	"	✓	1866 to 1924	Valleybury, Ont	✓	✓	✓	English

# Forms & Help

## Ancestry: Library Edition

- Forms
  - Ancestral Chart
  - Research Extract
  - Research Calendar
  - Correspondence Record
  - Family Group Sheet
  - Source Summary
  - Census Forms
- Guides
  - Census Guide
  - Using Records Guide
  - Immigration Guide
  - Military Guide
  - Ethnic Guide

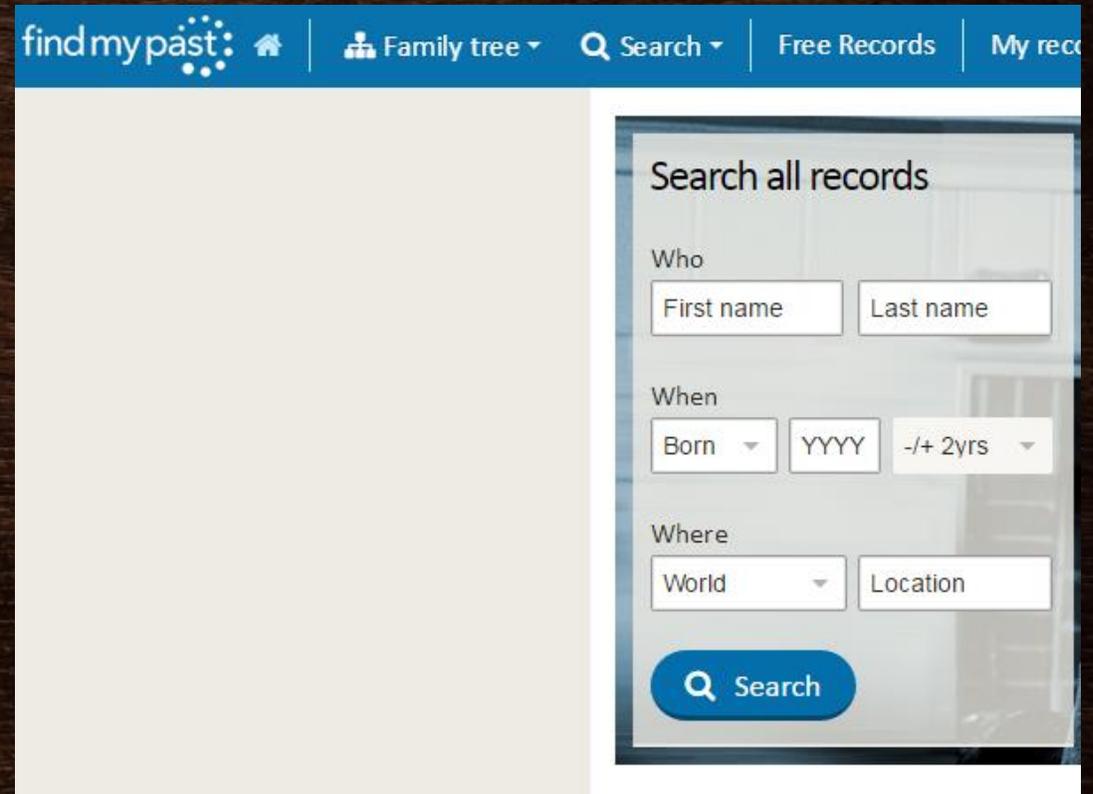
## Library & Archives Canada

- Guides
  - Research Guide
  - Organization Guide
- Forms
  - Pedigree Chart
  - Family Chart
- Links to relevant organizations

# Websites for Family Trees

Family Search

Find My Past



Devoted genealogists may also have a computer software at home.

# Other websites...

- [Africana Heritage](#)
- [Canada GenWeb Project](#)
- [Castle Garden](#)
- [Cyndi's List](#)
- [Dictionary of Canadian Biography](#)
- [Early Canadiana Online](#)
- [Ellis Island](#)
- [Free Reg](#)
- [Historica Canada](#)
- [Jewish Gen](#)
- [Library & Archives Canada](#)
- [National Archives of Germany](#)
- [National Archives of Ireland](#)
- [National Archives of UK](#)
- [US GenWeb Project](#)
- [US National Archives](#)
- [WieWasWie](#)
- [World Book: Student](#)

# Hidden Gems

- [Alberta Family Histories Society](#)
- [Archives Society of Alberta](#)
- [Athabasca University Archives](#)
- [City of Calgary, Corporate Records & Archives](#)
- [City of Edmonton Archives](#)
- [Family Tree Magazine & Podcasts](#)
- [Mount Royal University Archives](#)
- [Provincial Archives of Alberta](#)
- [Red Deer & District Archives](#)
- [South Peace Regional Archives](#)
- [University of Alberta Archives](#)
- [University of Calgary, Archives & Special Collections](#)
- [University of Lethbridge Archives](#)
- [Whyte Museum & Archives](#)

Remember that archives will help you but they will not do your research for you.

# Remember!

- Not everything has been digitized, catalogued or transcribed properly
- Not everything is going to be digitized
- Not everything can be digitized
- Archives are perpetually backlogged.
- You are not likely to find your entire family history in one spot.
- You may not always like what you find.
- Most countries have an official archives.
- Documents can be lost, destroyed, hidden, under protection, be private property, etc.
- Don't get down on yourself if you get stuck or have to skip a generation.

# Intro to Ancestry

ANCESTRY: LIBRARY EDITION

# What is the Ancestry Library Edition?

- Provides the most important of Ancestry's core services and collections
- Can read discussion threads but can't participate
- No family tree designer
- All the same help and learning resources
- Can only be accessed in the library
- No subscription needed—it is FREE for you to use!

# How do I save or print records?

- Two options:

1. **Send Document & Send Image Home**

Enter your email and have a copy of the record sent to your email so you can access it from your home computer

2. **Save To This Computer**

Download a copy of the record to the computer you are currently using (transfer to a flash drive if you're using a library computer!)

# How do I access the site?

- Ancestry Library Edition is available to all Peace Library System cardholders BUT it can only be accessed in the library!
  - Using a library computer or your personal device on the library wi-fi
- To connect follow these steps:
  1. Go to the eResources page on your website.
  2. Select “Online Reference by Topic”
  3. Select “Genealogy”
  4. Ancestry: Library Edition is the first eResource. Select “Website.”

# What kind of records do they have?

- Four main sources of records:

## Census Records & Voter Lists

Various regional censuses, federal census 1871 to 1921, western census 1906, 1916, voter lists 1935 to 1980

## Birth, Marriage & Death Records

## Military Records

## Immigration & Travel

Ship passenger lists 1865-1935, border crossings

## Card Catalog

Various

- The newest census of Canada available is 1921. Census information is protected from the public for 92 years.

# Hints and Tips!

- Be flexible with dates
- Be creative and flexible with spelling
- Use wildcard replacements in your searches
- Double check transcriptions against the scan of the original record
- Double check any already-made family trees
- Try working sideways if you get stuck
- Try to get as much information from your family as possible—this is very helpful if you have common names in your family

Let's go to the site!

Good luck with your search!

Questions?

Samantha Mercer  
[smerc@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca](mailto:smerc@peacelibrarysystem.ab.ca)