



The  
**Four Drive**  
A Genealogy Newsletter



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W H Y?

## SIBLING RESEARCH

### Using Ontario Vital Records and 1871 Population Census

**sib-ling** (sib'lin), *n.* *often in pl.* one of two or more persons born at different times of the same parents; brother or sister.

Many family historians concentrate research on direct ancestors. i.e. grand parents and great great .... grand parents. Interest and research activity is usually limited to their direct ancestors, ignoring siblings, aunts and uncles, etc.

The pedigree chart perpetuates this trap. We soon find that after locating all the easily found information we want to know more about our ancestors. Where they came from? What was their life like in those early days?

After tracking back several generations we would like find the their parents. Birth records may not be available showing their parents or the death record of the individual may have failed to include the individual's parents.

**Locating a sibling may provide  
the link to a missing ancestor.**

The birth, marriage, or death record of a sibling may be available that provides the previously unknown parents name. Not too long ago I was

trying to locate my great great grandmother Martha Lano in Canada. All of our early information indicated that Richard and Martha Lano came to Canada in the mid 1850's with their six daughters, Emma, Martha W., Elizabeth S., Agnes Naomi, Susanna, and Harriett Cecilia.

Canadian census records started in 1851 but the 1871 Census was the first with a good index. Richard died prior to this census and we could not locate Martha Fudge Lano in any of the indices. From family records we had most of the surnames for the marriages of the daughters and in some cases we also knew the names of some of their children. Fortunately Ontario's registry of Vital records started in 1869. The index and records have been generated on a computer and the resulting reproduction is very easy to read.

Using the index for births we started reviewing the index birth records in the 'H' for Hinds and 'G' for Gates. This index was used because both the H and G's were on same film.LDS#1819391. Nothing conclusive has yet been found for the Hinds family, partly because we are not sure whether the last name is Hinds, Hinde, Hinds; Fortunately Gates was not as common as some of the others such as White the married name for daughter Elizabeth.

Two births for the Gates family were clinchers that we had the correct family. One daughter of the Gates was listed in the index as Martha Lano Gates born 24 October 1869 in Amabel Twp., Bruce County, Ontario. The second clincher was Agnes Naomi Gates named for her mother born 8 Aug 1874 in Amabel, Bruce Co. Using the birth registration numbers we were able to review the films listing the births for those years and we found the parents to be Agnes Naomi Lano and George Gates. We now know the first name of Mr. Gates. Additionally the name of the "accoucheur" for the births was listed as Mrs. Lano.

We now know the full name of Gates and the county. Looking in census index book for Bruce county we found the reference for George Gates in the 1871 Census.

George Gates age 44 ENG WM bp ENG; District 28; subdistrict F, Div 1 page 5. This latter reference is the key to the census film for Bruce County. The WM refers to their religion as Wesley Methodist.

Census 1871

Name	age	bp	rel.	lang.	occup.
George Gates	m 44	ENG	WM	ENG	Farmer
Agnes	f 28	ditto			
George	22	ditto			
William	8	CAN	WM	ENG	
Robert	6	ditto			
Charles	5	ditto			
Martha	1	ditto			
Martha Lano	f 54	ENG	WM	ENG	

Lo! and behold there is Martha. Note: We were also able to obtain birth information for some of the other children. Unfortunately none for the sons as they were born prior to the Ontario Vital Records.

Additionally we found James Clifford {Martha W. Lano) family on the same page of the census. Living in the next

farm down the road. Subsequently we tracked down the births of the Clifford children and the birth information for one of their sons:

Samuel Weston Clifford 10 June 1879 #2470/79 f. James Clifford m. Martha Weston Lano. Previous information from English census records included the middle initial of names as being "W" for Martha W Lano wife of Richard and their daughter Martha W. We conclude from this information that one of the surnames of their ancestors was Weston.

In conclusion we have found several different pieces of family ancestral information by using sibling research. Coming in through the back door so to speak.

#### Locate living relatives

A knowledge of the siblings of our ancestors will help us locate living relatives that are doing genealogical research. Recently Chris Dixon and I have been corresponding with a distant cousin. Judith Stock is a great granddaughter of Mary Elizabeth Rose. Mary Elizabeth is sister to my great grandfather Andrew J. Rose. Thus we have common g-g grand parents Henry and Matilda Rose. We are able to correspond and exchange information and I hope some day have the opportunity to meet. The same is true with Chris Dixon, while not such a distant relative as Judith I do not think we have ever met. We have exchanged a considerable amount of information and I am looking forward to meeting him and his wife Janelle as we travel up the Pacific coast states this year.

#### Provide research information for subsequent generations

As I accumulate sibling information and generate family group sheets, pedigrees, descendant charts I would like to think that future generations may find the information useful as they too try tracking their roots.

**REFERENCES:****Ontario Vital Records,**

LDS#1819391, Index 1869-1886 "G" & "H"  
 LDS#1844883 for Martha Gates #1387/69  
 LDS#1845042 for Agnes Gates #2819/74  
 LDS#1845210 for Elizabeth Gates #2065/77  
 LDS#1q845584 for Ida Susanna #2495/83  
 LDS#1819389 Index 1869-ff for "C"  
 LDS#1845220 for Samuel Weston Clifford  
 Jun 10, 1879 #2470/79

LDS#1819476. 1819477 Index for "W"

**Ontario Census 1871**

LDS#349155 Bruce, Co., Ontario

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**How-to do****Tombstone Rubbings**

Information obtained from tombstones is an important part of genealogy research. Photographs will do the job, but many of us do not have cameras that can get a good photograph at such close range. Obtaining copies of this information is relatively simple as we have outlined .

**Materials needed:**

- Soft-bristle brush
- Masking tape
- Scissors
- White paper
- Rubbing wax or black crayon
- Metallic crayon wedges are optional.

Clean the stone with your brush. Remove bird droppings, dirt moss, lichen etc. from the stone. This will insure clear and sharp copy. If you have trouble getting any of these materials off the stone, Be sure that you do not damage the stone in your attempt to clean it.

Cut the paper. The paper can be white paper, rice paper or pellow. You can get rice paper from art stores and pellow from fabric shops. Any white paper will do in a pinch. Tape the paper squarely and securely to the stone. Use plenty of tape to make sure the paper doesn't slip while rubbing, as this will cause a blurred or double-image effect. Make sure that the paper covers the stone entirely so that you won't get marks on it.

Start on the outer edges of the stone. Block in the basic design of the rubbing, using a broad flat edge of your rubbing wax or crayon. The large fat crayons work well if you don't have rubbing wax.

Darken in the design on the stone, filling it in until the color and richness suits you. Some people like very dark rubbings, while others like lightly colored ones. It's a matter of personal preference.

When your rubbing is done, carefully remove the tape from the paper, being careful not to tear the edges of the paper. {Ed note; Original source of the article is unknown. Thanks to Chris Dixon for this information. }

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*The FOUR DRIVE*, a genealogy newsletter brought to you for promoting genealogy of our ancestors and their descendants.

**SPECIAL NOTE**

The scope of this newsletter is not limited to just the ancestors of the editor. While the editor will be pre-paring articles relating to his ancest-ors and their siblings and descendants we encourage others to submit infor-mation for inclusion in future issues. Additionally we will be including tips and information for research. We also want to keep subscribers informed of the research efforts of others. Many of us have common relatives but we may also be able to assist each other with some of your specific areas also.

**Recent Acquisitions.**

Your recent acquisitions of family history should be record here. Let us know what important piece of information you have recently found and or received from someone. This information does not have to be applicable to the editor's ancestors.

**Recent Happenings....**

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Chinnery of Amber gave an oyster supper for young people on New Years night.

Ludington Record - January 1895

**CURRENT RESEARCH EFFORTS**

DONALD CHINNERY has located a census record (photocopy avail.) of a Robert Fudge Family  
82 Wakeham Cottage  
Robert Fudge Head Mar age 61  
retired butcher bp=Dorset, Upway  
Martha Fudge, wife, mar, age 60  
bp= Dorset, Melcombe Regis  
Elizabeth Fudge, daur, u, age 31,  
bp=Dorset, Melcombe Regis  
Fanny Fudge, daur, age 18  
bp= Dorset, Melcombe Regis

**Are these the parents of Martha Lano nee Fudge???**

Wife of Robert Fudge is Martha  
Age of Robert = 61 and Martha = 60  
could reasonably be parents of Martha Lano nee Fudge who is shown as age 35 on 1851 Census with her husband. Her age fits in with the other siblings in the Fudge family A Elizabeth Fudge is shown as age 31 Martha Lano named one of her daughters Elizabeth as well as Martha.

Martha wife of Robert is shown as born in Melcombe Regis as are the two children shown.

If the above conclusion is valid, then this is a starting place.

1. This family needs to be located in the 1841 census for other siblings. LDS#241339, or #241344 (both are census 1841 for Dorset)
2. Parish registers and bishop transcripts need to be checked for Melcombe Regis and also Upway for Robert.
3. Any other references applicable for period 1800-1841.
4. Could also try and find births for Robert Fudge and Martha. There is a high probability that surname of Martha was Weston or her

mothers surname was Weston. dgc 24 December 1996

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**Mason County Genealogical Society.**

We received a letter from Paula Wadel a past president of the Mason County Genealogical Society advising that the society is no longer active. The research room with all of it's reference materials is still in the Ludington Public Library and available for use by visitors. Subscribers to this newsletter living in the area might want to consider taking an active role in getting the local society going again.

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