

Researching Family History: Getting Started



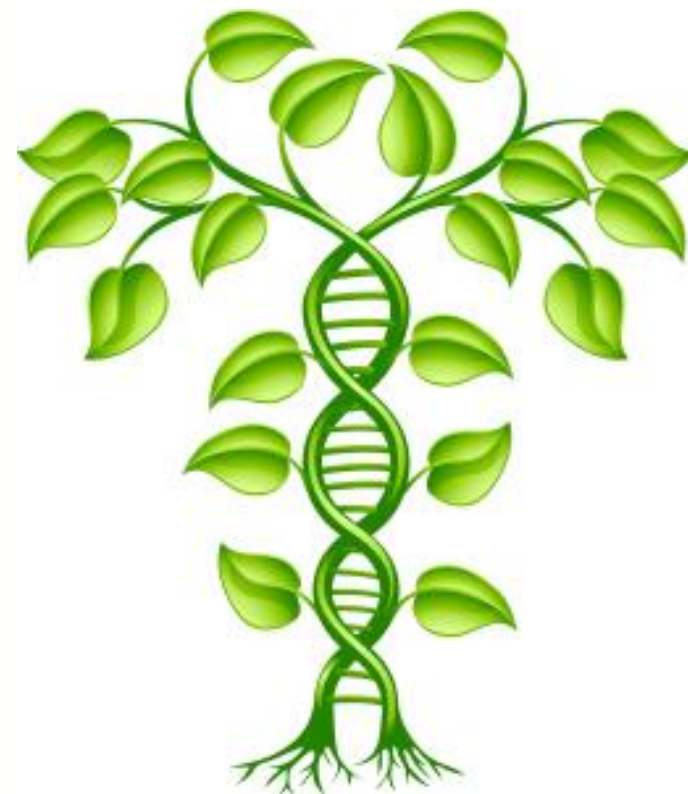
Introduction

Family History Treasure Hunt

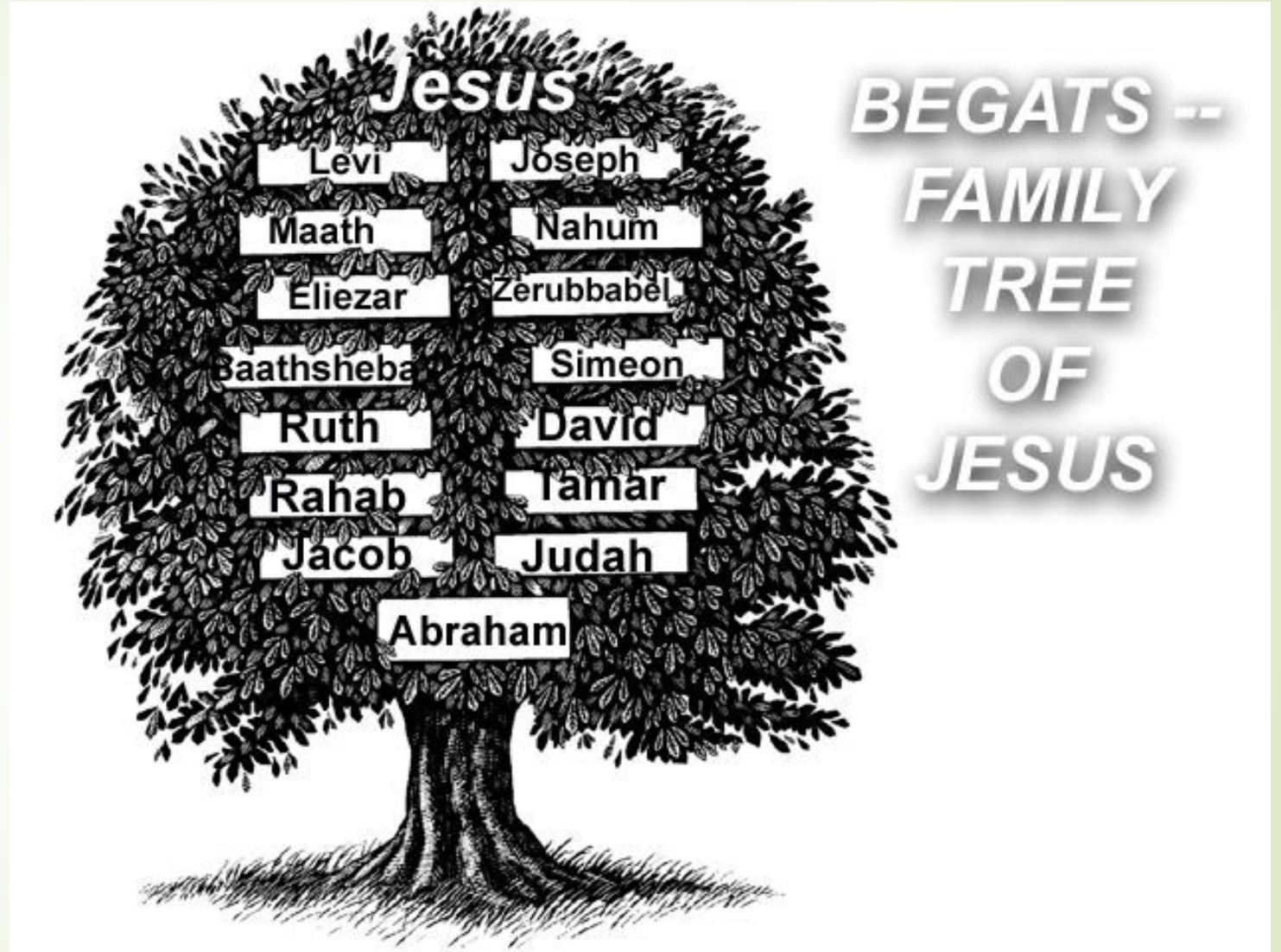


Why Family History?

- Curiosity – who am I - Identity
- Medical reasons – family history of disease
- Leave a legacy

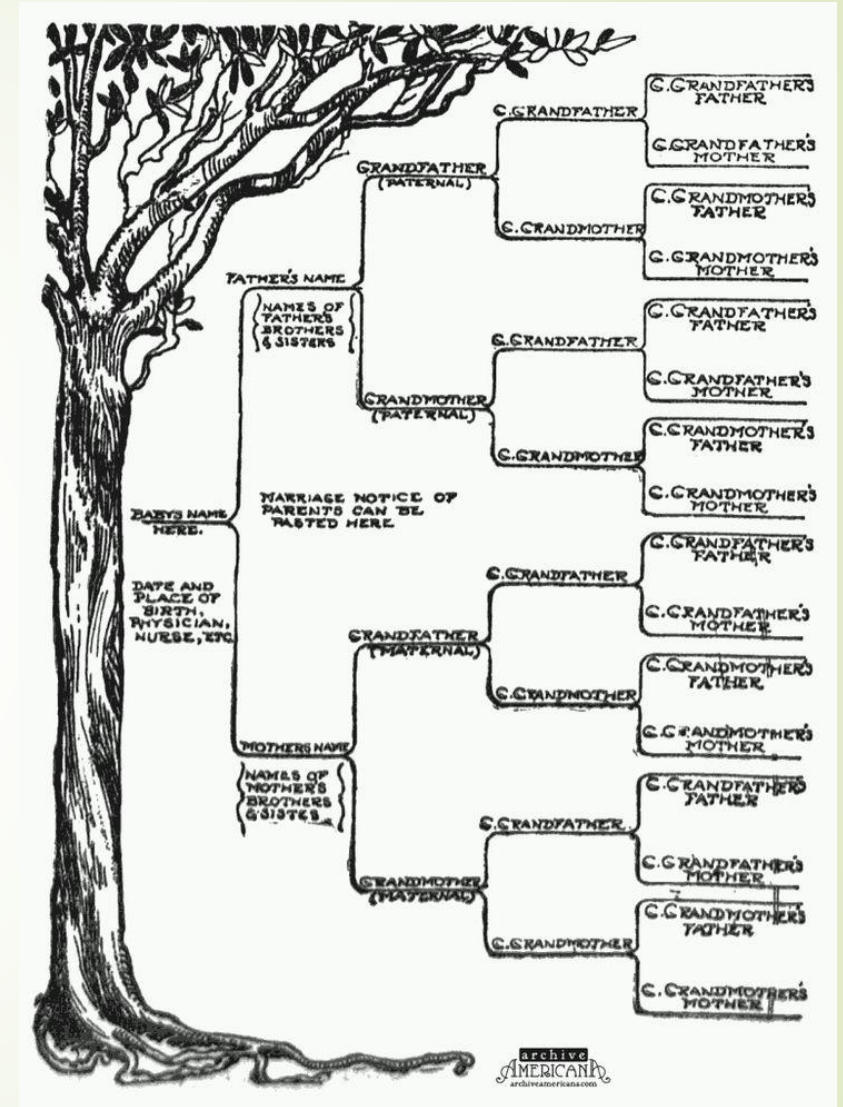


Family History has
a good Pedigree



How to start

- ▶ Start with yourself.
 - ▶ Document the vital statistics (dates, people, places) about your life.
- ▶ List the vital stats for your parents and grandparents.
- ▶ Creating a visual of your information can be helpful – a tree
- ▶ Organize yourself, documenting what you have found, where you have found it questions to follow up.



Gather Stories

- Gather information about your relatives. Learn about the area, context, and general history in which your ancestors lived to better understand.
- The tree is your starting point. Add some “meat” to the “bones.”
- Document family lore and traditions.
- Maintain hard copies, don't only rely on electronic documentation.



Invest in some Tools

- ▶ A lot of information on line
- ▶ Before you buy – “kick the tires.” Does the product have the info you want?
- ▶ Don't forget to:
 - ▶ Back up data
 - ▶ Create hard copies
 - ▶ Document where originals are
 - ▶ Create high res when you can.
- ▶ GRANDMA



GRANDMA database

- Is a starting point
 - Helps create the tree and points to sources to track down.
 - Compilation of a community of Dutch/German/Russian Mennonite genealogists research. 1.46 million names and growing.
 - **G**enealogical **R**egistry **and** **D**atabase of **M**ennonite **A**ncestry. (**GRANDMA**)
 - Purchase online \$20 for a 2 year subscription.
 - GRANDMA is for reference – not for starting your own database.

Grandma's Window

GRANDMA's Window: Online access to the GRANDMA database of Low German Mennonite Ancestry.

What is the GRANDMA database?

The GRANDMA database (Genealogical Registry and Database of Mennonite Ancestry) contains information on over a million individuals, most of whose ancestral lines can be traced to Mennonite communities in Prussia (now Poland) and South Russia (now Ukraine). The GRANDMA database is produced by the [California Mennonite Historical Society \(CMHS\)](#).

How can GRANDMA be accessed?

This database is available for searches in two forms:

A CD-ROM can be obtained from CMHS which is updated every few years; it is compatible with "Brother's Keeper" genealogical software which can generate a large variety of reports. The current version can be purchased from the [CMHS Online Store](#).

GRANDMA's Window, accessed through this website, [grandmaonline.org](#), enables online searches of the same data. Because it is online, it can be updated several times a year. The Online site does not provide every report available through the CD-ROM version. However, GRANDMA's Window does provide several new types of searches of value to this community.

Access to GRANDMA's Window is enabled by subscription from the [CMHS Online Store](#).

Please enter your login information:

Username:

Password:

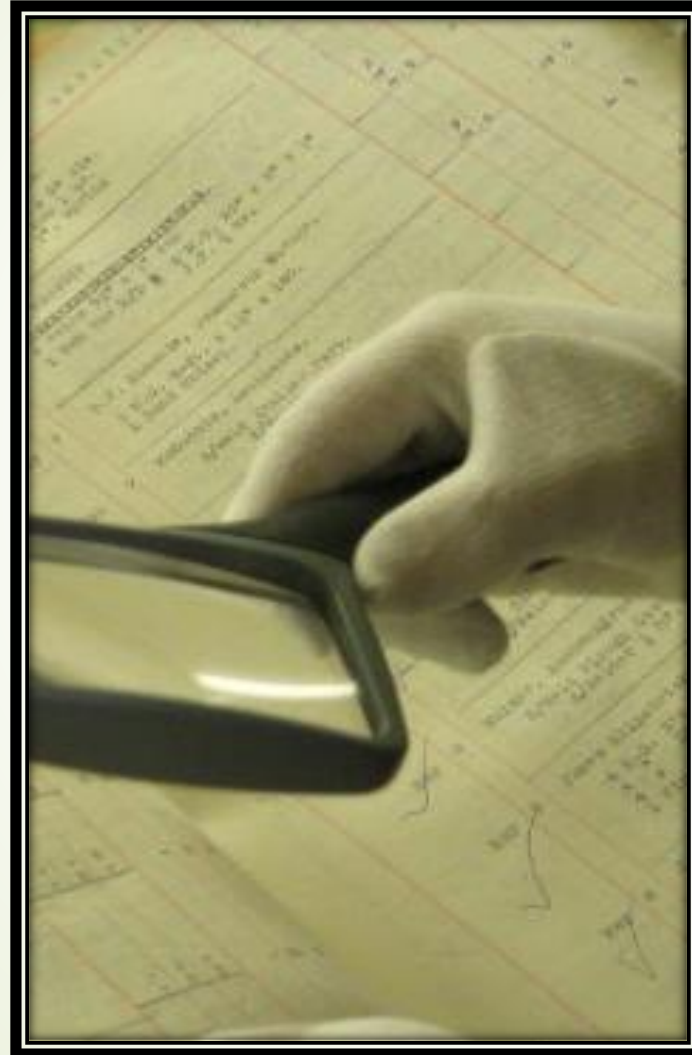
[Lost your password?](#)

[Looking for Guest Access?](#)

Grandma's Window, V 3.0, Rev. 2; Kenneth L. Ratzlaff, Lawrence, KS, 11/2000, 4/2017
Presented by California Mennonite Historical Society | Home | Contact us

Sources

➤ Sources puts the detective on the hunt for information!



| David Toews #4996 | | Ancestry | A Tafel | Descendants | Relatives | Bookn |
|----------------------|---|----------|---------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| Birth: | 9 Feb 1870, Lysanderhoeh, Am Trakt, Russia | | | | | |
| Baptism: | 20 May 1888, Newton, Kansas | | | | | |
| migration: | 4 Oct 1884, S. S. Fulda; arrived New York, New York | | | | | |
| Death: | 25 Feb 1947, Rosthern, Saskatchewan | | | | | |
| Burial: | 28 Feb 1947, Rosthern, Saskatchewan | | | | | |
| Misc: | Aeltester | | | | | |
| Family: | SPOUSE: Friesen, Margaretha , 24 Jul 1881, #5069 Married: 20 Sep 1900; Tiefengrund, Saskatchewan 1 -- + Toews, Marie , 21 Sep 1901, #5070 2 -- + Toews, Benno , 7 Jul 1903, #5071 3 -- + Toews, Margaretha , 4 May 1906, #5072 4 -- + Toews, Elsie , 23 Jan 1908, #5073 5 -- + Toews, Dorothy "Dora" , 14 Mar 1910, #5074 6 -- + Toews, Louise Emma , 19 Dec 1912, #5075 7 -- Toews, Elma , 14 May 1915, #5076 8 -- + Toews, Anna Ruth , 19 Feb 1918, #5077 9 -- Toews, Irene , 19 Oct 1921, #5078 | | | | | |
| Father: | Toews, Jacob , 26 Jun 1838, #4990 | | | | | |
| Mother: | Wiebe, Maria , 16 Jun 1838, #4991 | | | | | |
| Notes: | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Birth Source: Who's Who Among the Mennonites, page 244• Birth Source: Der Bote, page 24 May 1950, p5• Birth Source: First Mennonite Church, Newton, Kansas. Stammbuch. Folder, 242 1/2, box 25, John E. Entz papers, MCA.MS.62 Library and Archives, Bethel College North Newton, KS., page 30• Birth Source: Bergthaler Church Records of Manitoba (West Reserve), page Reg1, p347• Birth Source: A History of the Tiefengrund Friesens• Birth Source: West Reserve Bergthal Church Register No. 1, page 347• Baptism Source: West Reserve Bergthal Church Register No. 1, page 347• Baptism Source: Der Bote, page 24 May 1950, p5• Baptism Source: Newton, Kansas. First Mennonite Church, Folder 235, MS. 62, page 14• Baptism Source: Bergthaler Church Records of Manitoba (West Reserve), page Reg1, p347• Death Source: Die Mennonitische Rundschau, page 12 Mar 1947, p2• Death Source: Der Bote, page 24 May 1950, p5• Burial Source: Die Mennonitische Rundschau, page 12 Mar 1947, p2• Burial Source: Der Bote, page 5 Mar 1947, p3• Notes: 1st Menn Newton memb. rec. p. 15: "2/4 1895 Nach Gretna, Manitoba". One record says he was born 9 Jul 1870. He was Rosenort Church at Rosthern, Saskatchewan. Joined Bergthal Church in 1894. In 1899 David left the West Reserve Bergthal Church moved to Saskatchewan (West Reserve Bergthal Church Register No.1, p.347). He lived in Newton, Kansas. David was a minister ordained in Aug 1901 and became a minister who was ordained in Aug 1901 and became an Aeltester in Sep 1913. C Margarethe had 9 children, 1 son & 8 daughters. David was the leader of the Mennonite Board of Colonization from 1923 to 19 more than 20,000 Mennonites immigrated to Canada.• Immigration Source: Brothers in Deed to Brothers in Need : a Scrapbook about Mennonite Immigrants from Russia, 1870-1885.• Marriage Source: Klaassen Family Register, page 115• Marriage Source: Die Mennonitische Rundschau, page 30 Jul 1941, p4• Marriage Source: Der Bote, page 16 Jul 1941, p4 | | | | | |

Sources for Mennonite Research

- ▶ <http://mennonitegenealogy.com>
 - ▶ Transcriptions of Prussian, Russian, Canadian, American Latin American church registers, census, etc.
- ▶ Archival web sites, Mennonite Heritage Archives, Centre for Mennonite Brethren Studies, Library and Archives Canada, Provincial vital statistics.
 - ▶ Listing of resources online.
 - ▶ Congregational records
 - ▶ Personal papers
 - ▶ Special collections (Katie Peters, Mennonite Genealogy Inc.)
 - ▶ *Mennonite Historian* magazine
 - ▶ www.TimJanzen.com Pages of sources by region.



Get to know the archives



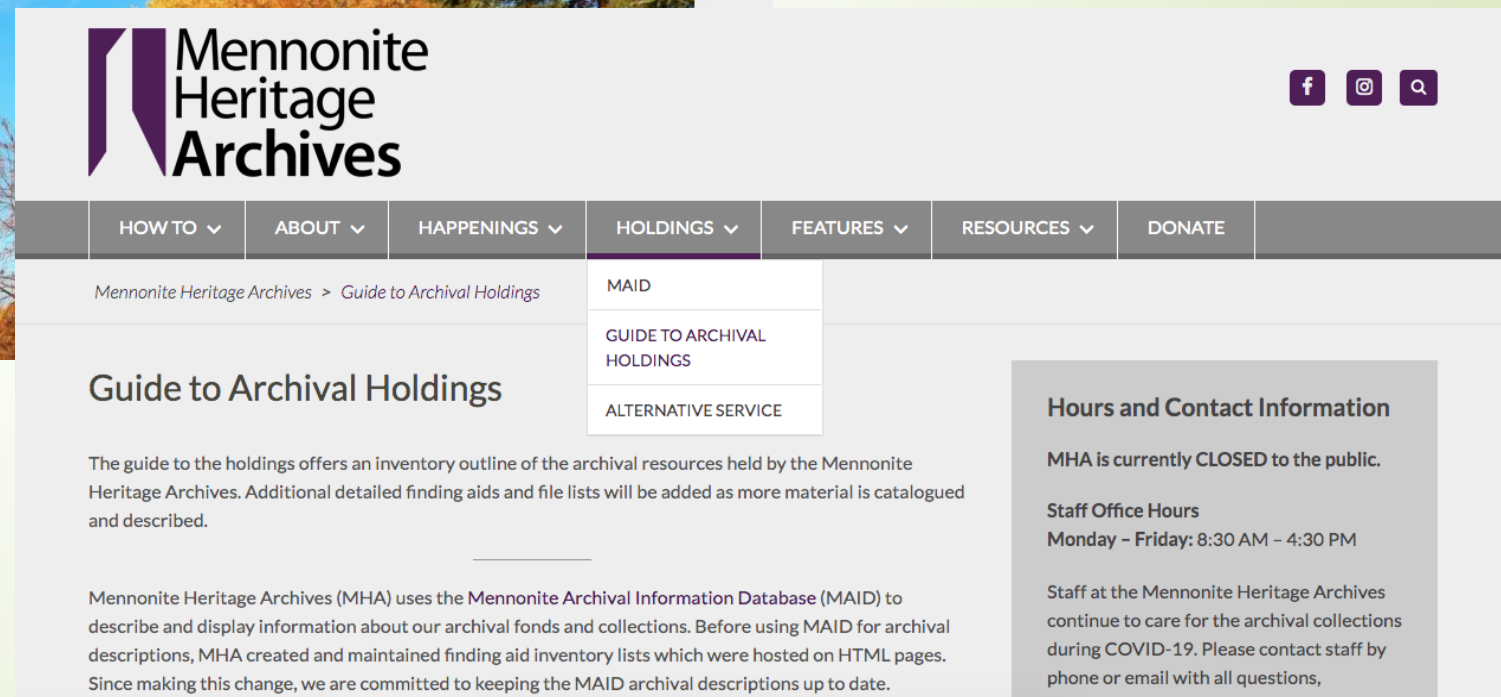
★ I'M AN ★
ARCHIVIST
★ WHAT'S YOUR ★
SUPERPOWER?

Be nice to your local archivist!



➡ They Can Erase you from History

Mennonite Heritage Archives site



Mennonite Archival Image Database

<https://archives.mhsc.ca/>



The screenshot shows the MAID website interface. At the top left is a portrait of a man with a beard, followed by the text "MAID Mennonite Archival Image Database". To the right are social media icons and a "Staff Login" button. Below this is a navigation bar with "Browse", a search input field, and "Cart (0)".

Browse by

- Descriptions
- Names
- Subjects
- Places
- Images
- Advanced search
- Archival partners
- Search help

Popular this week

- Mennonite Historical Society of British Columbia (repository) 135 visits
- Mennonite Heritage Archives 121 visits
- The outside of the old Kitchener Farmer's Market 120 visits

A discovery site for Mennonite archives

The Mennonite Archival Information Database (MAID) contains archival descriptions and photographs from the collections of our Archival Partners.

Imperial Bank of Canada, Hague

D. G. Rempel Store

Hague Flour Mill

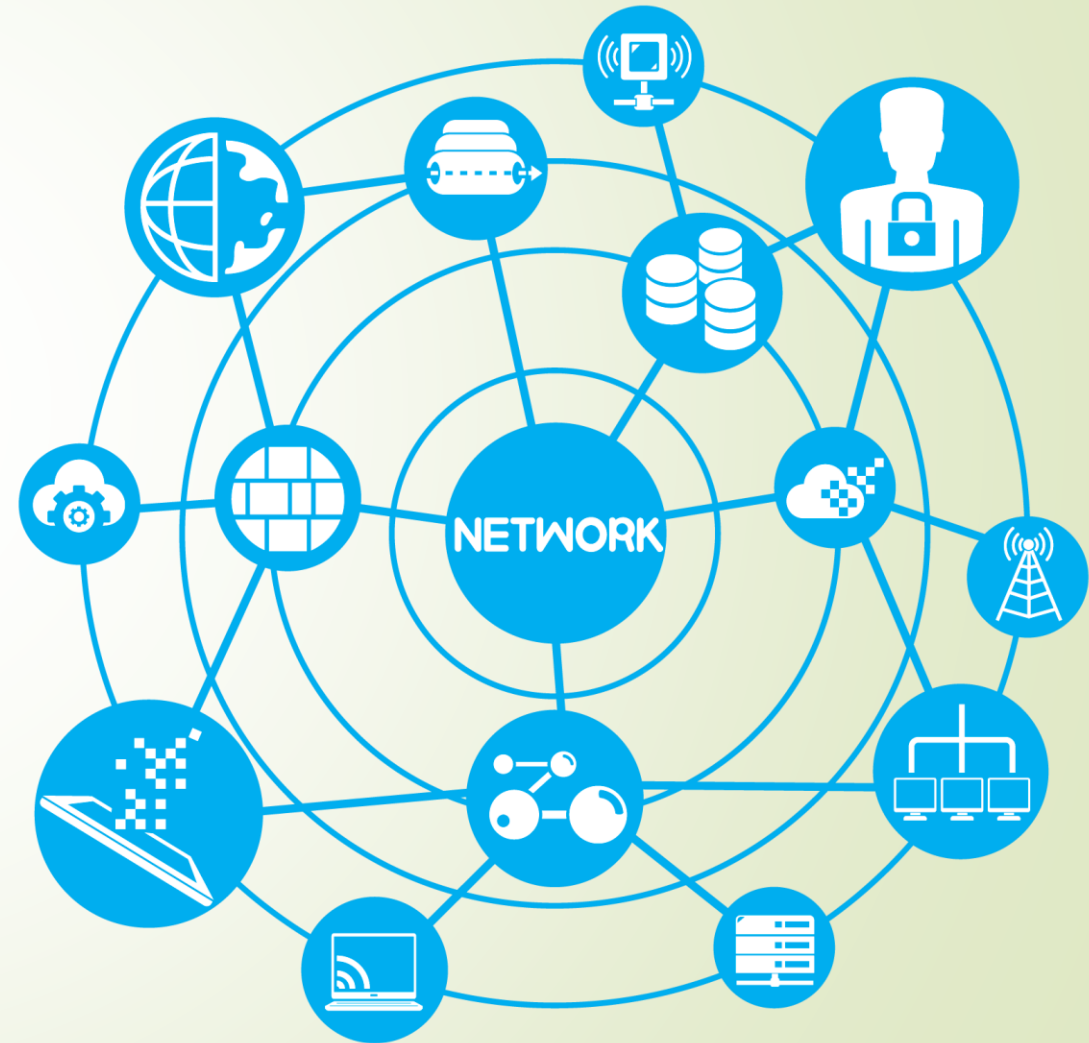


Photos add emotion



Joining with like minded people - network

- Get involved!
- Local Historical Society
 - Manitoba Mennonite Historical Society
- Manitoba Genealogical Society
- Facebook groups
 - MHA Facebook page
 - Mennonite and family history FB pages





Thank you for Listening!

My contact us at:



Web: www.mharchives.ca

Email: info@mharchives.ca