



BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGY NEWS - ABOUT OUR MEMBERS - FOR OUR MEMBERS

April 1, 2020

Volume 5, Issue 4

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bill Clayton, BCGS President president@bcgs.ca

There is an old saying, “May you live in interesting times”. There is no doubt that things may be too interesting now and in the near future. Our personal worlds are becoming virtual worlds. Let’s hope and work toward making our world open to everyone again.

The AGM is over and just as your Board and all the volunteers want to get down to work, we have to keep our distance. This too, will change with time.

The AGM was a very quiet affair for the most part. All the positions were filled by acclamation – perhaps a first for BCGS. There was a very good and respectful discussion about raising our membership fees starting next year. The motion to increase the BCGS membership fees to \$65 for full members was approved by a very wide margin following the discussion.

Spring is always a starting point for so many activities, but this year “Mr Covid-19” has given us other things to do. The BCGS Genealogical Library is closed until further notice. Workshops, chats and special interest group meetings are also suspended until further notice. And, of course, no monthly membership meetings.

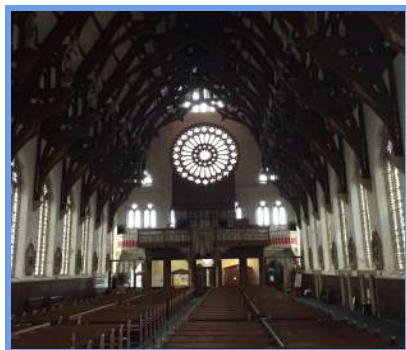
This does not mean that nothing is happening. There is work going on on your behalf behind the scenes and over the internet. Work is continuing on the website under the coordination of Ann Buchanan and a volunteer team of programmers through the Mastercard Cares program.

Much work has been done in the Library over the last few years under the direction and watchful eyes of Past President Eunice Robinson and our Library Administrator, Corrine Jubb. The number of people coming into the library has increased about 7% per month, each month over the last couple of years. The chats and special interest groups have more attendees each month and are now able to enjoy live and recorded seminars on the new 65” TV.

I am looking forward to when we will be able to return to using our much upgraded library and all the resources in the library. Did you know that we have newsletters and journals from about 85 other genealogy organizations in our digital library? Something to look forward to in the (near) future.



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Check our website www.bcgs.ca for more detail about our Society

Please share. Just click FORWARD from the email and send this to your friends. Thank you!

We'd love to hear from you! Please share your ongoing research, your personal searches, your exciting successes, your frustrating challenges, your research trip, your discoveries, how you broke down that brick wall, found a long lost relative, a story about an ancestor, or an interesting family story. If you have an idea about a story, feel free to talk to or email the newsletter editors at newsletter@bcgs.ca or the eJournal editor at journal@bcgs.ca. Your stories encourage others!





BCGS
April 2020



Photo Mar 18 2016

Spring

*"A lovely reminder
of how beautiful
change can truly be."*



Photos and poster by June Gauntley, member #5112

MESSAGE FROM THE BCGS eJOURNAL EDITOR



Lynne Fletcher, BCGS eJournal editor

Spring this year has brought an unexpected surprise for active genealogists. A new virus that is affecting the whole world has put giant roadblocks in the path of all our spring and summer travel as well as our research plans.

For genealogists, this may mean cancelling the road trips, research library visits and family get-togethers, and replacing them with online sessions. Fortunately, we're an agile and creative group, who view an obstacle as a creative challenge, not a dead-end. There are many ways to track down a piece of information - using a computer, a phone, perhaps a set of postage stamps, or a notice that we might send to a fellow researcher to post onto a bulletin board in a village overseas. We are creative detectives!

Now that everyone is hunkering down at home, I'm planning to pull out all of those old documents and pictures, reassess that data and plan the next step. This is the time to reorganize and refile all of those pieces, and take my research systems to new heights. This virus may be a blessing in disguise.

I hope that your time out goes smoothly, and that you find that missing piece of the genealogical puzzle that has been confounding you. If you find that piece, could you share your results with our Journal readers ?



Please send your story and pictures to Journal@bcgs.ca

BCGS POSTCARD COLLECTION



POSTCARDS OF THE MONTH

The Story Behind a Picture Postcard

**Janice Kidwell,
BCGS member #5033**

This is a lovely embossed postcard that was printed in Germany. On the top left of the card, the word 'postcard' is shown in a number of different languages.

Although there is no address on the back, it does bear an uncanceled stamp of King George V. The postcard's message is: To Donald, with love from Auntie Rose.



MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS of the BCGS

We wish to welcome these new members to the BCGS. We're here to help you with your research, so please ask us any questions at all!

5780 Darlene ADAMS

5781 Abbotsford Family History Centre

5782 Sandra NIVEN

5783 Stan FRASER

5784 Laurieen G. HOLST



YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES FREE ACCESS to the BCGS RESEARCH TEAM



Ann Buchanan, BCGS Research Co-ordinator

Ann tells us that despite the corona virus situation, the BCGS Research Team can still search the Clippings Index, Cemetery Recordings, Vancouver Sun Newspapers - 1999 to 2012 obituaries, and various other data bases which BCGS has digitally produced.

If you are a member of the BCGS email Ann at queryrequest@bcgs.ca

Our BC Research volunteers will be happy to assist you in any way they can. There is no charge for this service. If your request is complicated and time consuming, BC Research may ask you for a small donation. A non-member is charged specific fees based on what they are asking.

The BCGS library has nearly 18,000 books, over 12,000 newspaper clippings, and many film, CD, and computerized databases. The Library Catalogue is still available online to help you prepare for your next visit to the library.

BCGS GIFT CERTIFICATE

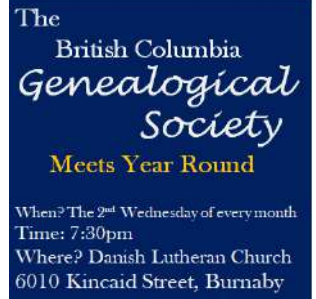
Please note that the BCGS now has this wonderful **Gift Certificate** available for members who wish to gift a relative or friend with a BCGS membership.

If you would like to purchase a gift certificate, please contact Eunice Robinson at eunice@genbug.ca



BCGS MEMBERS' MEETINGS

News about upcoming meetings as well as previous meetings



Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm

Danish Lutheran Church Hall, 6010 Kincaid Street, Burnaby, BC

THE NEXT MEETING was scheduled for:

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8th

To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus,

THE APRIL MEETING HAS BEEN CANCELLED

Please check our website and Facebook pages for news about future meetings.

What happens at our monthly meetings? The doors open half an hour before the meeting starts, and you're welcome to chat with other members and get settled in. Our business meeting begins at 7:30, followed by a coffee break where you can chat with others. We then have our 50/50 draw and break out into our education sessions - usually about an hour. Then there's time for more chatting while we tidy up.



CANCELLED

MEMBERS' MEETING - APRIL 8, 2020

FEATURED SPEAKER - RALPH DREW

COQUITLAM CHRONICLES

Ralph Drew, author of the Coquitlam Chronicles – has written four books and is currently working on the 5th. “Coquitlam Chronicles” covers the history of the Coquitlam area of Metro Vancouver, and brings life to this history with historical photographs, which are truly ‘worth a thousand words’. This latest book by Ralph Drew is the perfect gift solution for family and friends.

To be rescheduled



MAY TO JUNE 2020

Education Schedule for Members' Meetings



MAY 13th - SPEAKERS - “DNA COUSINS - KEN & BARBI - How They Found Each Other” - Ken & Barbi Braude

JUNE 10th - SPEAKER - PATRICIA SKIDMORE - “MARJORIE, TOO AFRAID TO CRY - A Home Child Experience”

To be rescheduled

LOOKING BACK at the MARCH MEETING - WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2020

BCGS BOARD EXECUTIVE AND DIRECTORS - MARCH 2020



Front Row - Left to right: Director **Terri Mackenzie**, Vice President **Judith Ueland**, President **Bill Clayton**, Past President **Eunice Robinson**, Vice President **Rob Whitlock**.

Back Row - Left to right: Director **Claire Belzer**, Director **Linda Maitland**, Director **Peter Whitlock**, Recording Secretary **Lorraine Irving**, e-Journal Editor **Lynne Fletcher**, Library Administrator **Corrine Jubb**.

Insets: Director **Sherri King**, Treasurer **Judy Rosmus**, Director **Kenneth Livingstone**

BCGS BOARD of DIRECTORS - EXECUTIVE and DIRECTOR POSITIONS

POSITION

2020

President	Bill Clayton
Past President	Eunice Robinson
Vice President	Rob Whitlock
Vice President	Judith Ueland
Treasurer	Judy Rosmus
Recording Secretary	Lorraine Irving
Corresponding Secretary	Vacant
Director 2018 - 2021	Peter Whitlock
Director 2018 - 2021	Sherry King
Director 2019 - 2022	Claire Belzer
Director 2019 - 2022	Kenneth Livingstone
Director 2020 - 2023	Terri Mackenzie
Director 2020 - 2023	Linda Maitland
Library Administrator	Corrine Jubb





Left: **Eunice Robinson**, now Past President, with **Bill Clayton** voted in as current President for the term 2020 to 2023.

Right: **Ann Buchanan** with Air Miles cards which can be used to obtain points to be donated to the BCGS. Anyone interested in having a BCGS Air Miles card can contact Ann at ibbotsonab@gmail.com



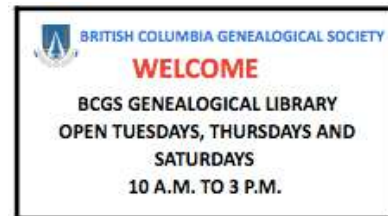
To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this event is **POSTPONED**.
It will be rescheduled at a later date.

A vibrant poster for "Music Trivia Night". The title "Music TRIVIA NIGHT" is written in large, stylized letters (yellow, pink, and blue). Below the title, it says "Name That Family Tune!". The poster features a collage of various photos of people, likely participants or performers. At the bottom, it lists the event details: "Silent Auction • Special Guests • Awards for Best Costume", "Full Buffet Supper & CASH BAR (Beer, wine & coolers)", and a price tag of "\$35 PER PERSON". The date and location are "Saturday May 30, 2020" at "Danish Lutheran Church 6010 Kincaid Street BBY". It also includes contact information: "Reserve Your Tickets Early! PHONE/TEXT 604-799-5900 or Peter.Whitlock@One-Name.org" and a note: "We are Sure to Sell Out! All Proceeds go to the BCGS Website Upgrade Fund. NO TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR. Adults Only Event."

The **NAME THAT FAMILY TUNE** poster, designed by Susan Sullivan and presented to the members during the meeting.

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

News about our library as well as the events that took place and will take place at the library



BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Unit 211, 12837 – 76th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**TO HELP LIMIT the SPREAD of COVID-19,
the BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY is CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

NEWS from the LIBRARY STACKS



Corrine Jubb, Library Administrator

The BCGS Library, Cloverdale Library and the LDS Family History Centres in Surrey and Burnaby are all closed during the coronavirus crisis. While we are limited to researching from home, I encourage you to use digital library and database resources. Whether you have a personal subscription like Ancestry, or can check out an online library's digital collection, or use a free site like Family Search, we can still pursue our genealogy research.

Some useful websites:

Ancestry - <http://www.ancestry.ca>

Family Search - <https://www.familysearch.org/en/>

Find a Grave - <https://www.findagrave.com/>

Allen County Public Library Genealogy Centre, Ft Wayne, Indiana - <http://genealogycenter.org/>

Toronto Public Library - <https://www.torontopubliclibrary.ca/history-genealogy/genealogy.jsp>

Library and Archives Canada - <https://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/Pages/home.aspx>

University of Calgary Library (some older databases require a UofC login & pw) - <https://library.ucalgary.ca/az.php>

British Columbia Archives - Royal BC Museum - <http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy>



RESOURCEMATE - NEW LIBRARY CATALOGUE DATABASE

In mid March, our old **library catalogue database system** was merged with our new **Resourcemate Catalogue** on-line.

The cataloguers can now enter their data into the Resourcemate database at the library. Any updates they do will be uploaded to the website overnight. This means that the website catalogue will always be up to date (or at least only one day behind).





GENEALOGY GEMS & ODDITIES in the BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Celia Lewis, Member #5183

R 929.01'973

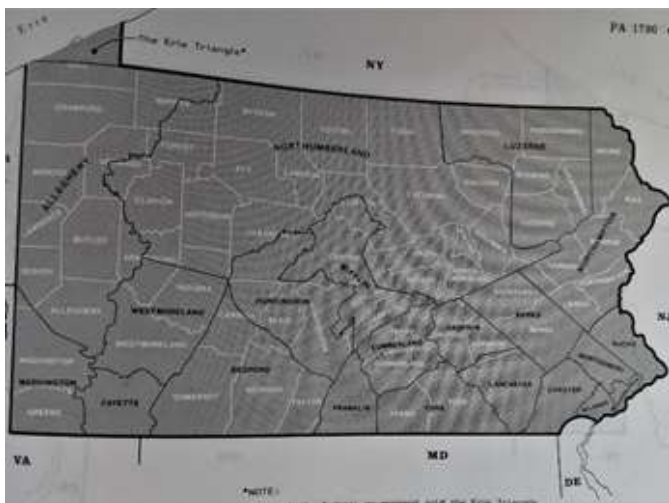
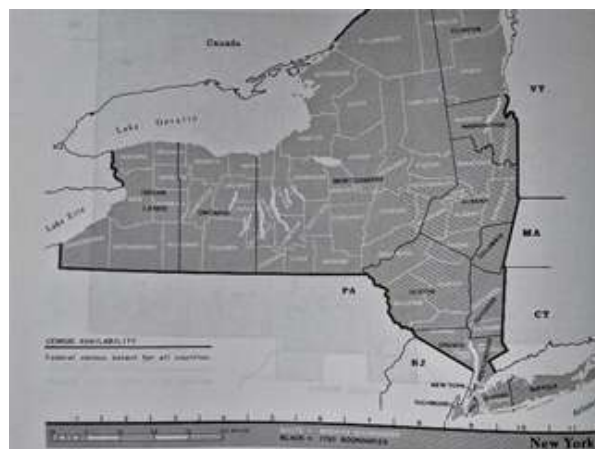
MAP GUIDE TO THE U.S. FEDERAL CENSUSES, 1790 - 1920

THO

By William Thorndale and William Dollarhide

Even though we can find many things online, any book with William Dollarhide's name on it is definitely worth perusing in our research!! We're fortunate to have this very clear and detailed large soft-cover book by these two, in our BCGS Genealogical Library. The back page has a sample map [Minnesota 1857], with detailed explanations of the marks on maps, and codes used. Amazingly helpful. Note that the "R" in front of the library numbers shows it is a **Reference Book** only, and cannot be taken out.

I started off going through this book looking at the 1790 maps of only two of my American ancestors' home states, Pennsylvania [PA] below, and New York state [NY] above.



What you might find most useful is keeping track of the new boundaries of all the counties of a state, year by year of the Federal Censuses, with specific details on most pages. For example, I just checked Virginia [VA] and found a note stating for 1790 the Federal census was lost for all counties! This loss of the Federal censuses was also true for most VA counties over several following Census years.

Information such as these notes would save much frustration and confusion when researching. Example, "Albany County, NY" was that large in 1790-?! My ancestors' home base in 1790 - although stated as in Onondaga County, actually would be considered in Albany County - and that's where the records would most likely be kept.

Having this book open beside your computer would be very helpful as you track the migration - or apparent migration - of your ancestors every decade, watching the county lines change, and new counties added.

Not only is there a detailed **Contents** page, there is also an **Appendix**: "Pitfalls in Mapping Boundaries", as well as a **Bibliography**, and an **Index** of each County, by State. This is a very high quality Reference Book, and is highly recommended.

Note: The book can be partially viewed through <https://books.google.ca/books?id=pURb5FQ5EH4C>. Click on any page to bring up a window with many pages to scroll through.

BCGS GENEALOGY CHATS - POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

Coffee Chats at the BCGS Genealogical Library



Come by the library for a chat about your research or advice on where to begin. Bring a coffee mug, a friend, your favourite resources or just bring yourself. \$2 drop-in fee. Spend the day and browse our wonderful resources.

QUEBEC QUESTERS CHAT

2nd Saturday of each month

10 am to noon

Next chat TBA

With Linda Maitland

lindamaitland@telus.net



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

2nd Saturday of each month, 1 to 3 pm

Next chat TBA

With Sharon Clayton

Please pre-register sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

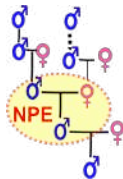
Parental Puzzles (NPE)

3rd Monday of most months, 1 to 3 pm

Next chat TBA

With Sharon Clayton

sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

Advanced DNA Research Tools

4th Monday of most months, 1 to 3 pm

Next chat TBA

With Sharon Clayton

Please pre-register sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



BC GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA

With Janet White

jwhite@telus.net



MAC/REUNION GROUP

3rd Wednesday of most months, 2 to 4 pm

Next chat TBA

With Bill Clayton

weclayton45@gmail.com



SOFTWARE for GENEALOGY

Next chat TBA

With Angus Glass

liliardsedge@aol.com



SCOTLAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA

With Lorriane Irving

lorraine.irving42@gmail.com



ENGLAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA

With Rob Whitlock

robw.whitlock@gmail.com



IRELAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA

With Eunice Robinson

eunice@genbug.ca



ATLANTIC GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA

With Keith MacNutt

jkeithmacnutt@gmail.com



ONTARIO GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA

With Janet White

jwhite@telus.net



PLANNING A TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY

Next chat TBA

With Eunice Robinson

eunice@genbug.ca



**ALL GROUPS & EVENTS ARE POSTPONED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

BRITISH ISLES RESEARCH EVENT

POSTPONED

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE



BCGS Special Interest Groups

These are BCGS genealogy groups that meet elsewhere

SCANDINAVIAN GROUP

3rd Saturday of most months

1 to 3 pm

With Poul Erik Rasmussen

Scandinavian Community Centre

6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby

sonofrasmus@shaw.ca



WELSH GROUP

3rd Wednesday of most months

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

With the Vancouver Welsh Society

215 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver

(Downstairs, enter from the back of the building)

csmythe@telus.net



**BOTH GROUPS POSTPONED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

NOTE: THIS BCGS SUBSCRIPTION ENDS SOON

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY has a

FREE TRIAL for MYHERITAGE.COM

until May 31st, 2020

“Search billions of records - dive into our huge international records database – just search a name to learn more about your ancestors.” Check it out and then **come to the library to do some research** while it is still available - **free to members**.



NOTE: THIS BCGS SUBSCRIPTION ENDS SOON

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY has a

SUBSCRIPTION to AMERICANANCESTORS.ORG

until SUMMER 2020

“AmericanAncestors.org has more than 1 billion records spanning the US and beyond to help find your ancestors and solve your genealogical mysteries.” Check it out and then **come to the library to do some research** while it is still available - **free to members**.



BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY has AFFILIATE LIBRARY STATUS with [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)

Images Available

To view these images you must do one of the following:

- Access the site at a [family history center](#)
- Access the site at a [FamilySearch affiliate library](#)

When you are using FamilySearch.org and you see the image on the left, remember that the **BCGS Genealogical Library has Affiliate Library status with FamilySearch.org**. This means that while using FamilySearch.org at the BCGS Genealogical Library, you will be able to view many of the digital images of documents that are locked to home users.

BCGS NEWS

News about new members, positions, committees and contests within the Society

WEBSITE POSITIONS FILLED

The BCGS Board of Directors is pleased to announce the following positions have been appointed:



WEBMASTER: Congratulations and thank you to **Sheila Albrecht** for volunteering as our new BCGS Webmaster. A Board of Directors' vote was held via email with the results being a resounding "YES".



WEBSITE LIAISON: **Ann Buchanan** has held a number of positions with the BCGS during the past year and we are happy to have her take on the duties of Website Liaison with the Board and the Webmaster.

SAVE THOSE PULL TABS and CANS!

The BCGS can raise some extra funds by collecting the pull tabs from soft drink cans and beer cans as well as the pop cans and beer cans themselves.

The Society will be happy to receive your aluminum cans and pull tabs (together or separately) at the library

in Surrey during the hours it's open or at any of our monthly BCGS meetings in Burnaby. Each donated tab or can makes a difference to our BCGS budget. **Please keep collecting during this social distancing time!**



Keep an eye on our Facebook pages during the Covid-19 pandemic. We're posting genealogical links to help with research while you're social distancing, self-isolating or in quarantine.

British Columbia Genealogical Society - information about the BCGS as well as announcements for upcoming events and genealogical items of interest are posted in this account. Open to non-BCGS members too. You can join here. <https://www.facebook.com/bcgenealogy/>

BCGS Genealogical Discussion Group - for genealogical collaboration and discussion. You can easily communicate with all members of the group, post your research questions, share a brick wall, a genealogical success, and other members of the group can reply or comment. Others can help you and you can help others. Open to non-BCGS members too. You can join here. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/bcgsdiscussion>

BCGS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are lots of volunteer opportunities within the BCGS. Many hands make light work and ALL help is appreciated!

To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the BCGS Genealogical Library is closed until further notice; however, several of these projects can easily be done at home.

LIBRARY VOLUNTEER - A volunteer is needed for the morning shift (10 am to 12:30) for the third Tuesday of each month. Please contact Corrine Jubb at library@bcgs.ca

DIGITIZING NEWSPAPERS - BC RESEARCH - **Work can easily be done at home.** A few more people to help with the digitization of BC newspapers would make this project go much faster. If you'd like to help, please contact Ann Buchanan at ibbotsonab@gmail.com

BOOK INDEXING PROJECT - **Work can easily be done at home.** More indexers are needed. Indexing is done on an Excel spreadsheet but no experience is necessary. Jacqueline Penney will be happy to teach those who would like to help out. Please contact Jacqueline at jmpenney@me.com

PIONEER REGISTRY - THE NEXT WAVE - **Project Update**
Thanks to the members who are submitting their information to the Pioneer Registry – the Next Wave. If you are interested in submitting your pioneers, email Eunice Robinson at eunice@genbug.ca and she will send you the form.

50th ANNIVERSARY BOOK - The BCGS will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021 and volunteers are needed to work on the anniversary book. Please contact Eunice Robinson at eunice@genbug.ca



HOLTEN NETHERLANDS CEMETERY PROJECT – **Work can easily be done at home.** Are you looking for a new research project to do from home? The **Holten Netherlands Cemetery Project** can use your help. Please join us! Our goal is to research each of the **81 British Columbia WWII soldiers** who are buried in the Holten Cemetery in the Netherlands. What we discover will assist the Holten Canadian Cemetery Information Center fill their upcoming online database with information that will be accessible to anyone researching the soldiers in the future. If you are interested, please email Melissa Borgerson at melissa_n_cecil@hotmail.com and we will get you the name of a soldier and the info you need to get started. Thank you!

FACILITY MAINTENANCE TEAM LEADER - **Needed** - A handy-person with hands-on experience to maintain, fix, renovate and improve the interior of our library. Must be a team player as well as a leader. Contact Bill Clayton at weclayton45@gmail.com



BCGS WEBSITE ACCESS for NEW and RENEWING MEMBERS

Members are reminded that it is important to create your profile after you receive your email confirmation for the Free Access registration. You **MUST** help us out by providing your **Member Number and Full Name** in your profile. If you don't, it will delay your update to Paid Access. If you need a copy of the instructions to do so, send a request to webmaster@bcgs.ca

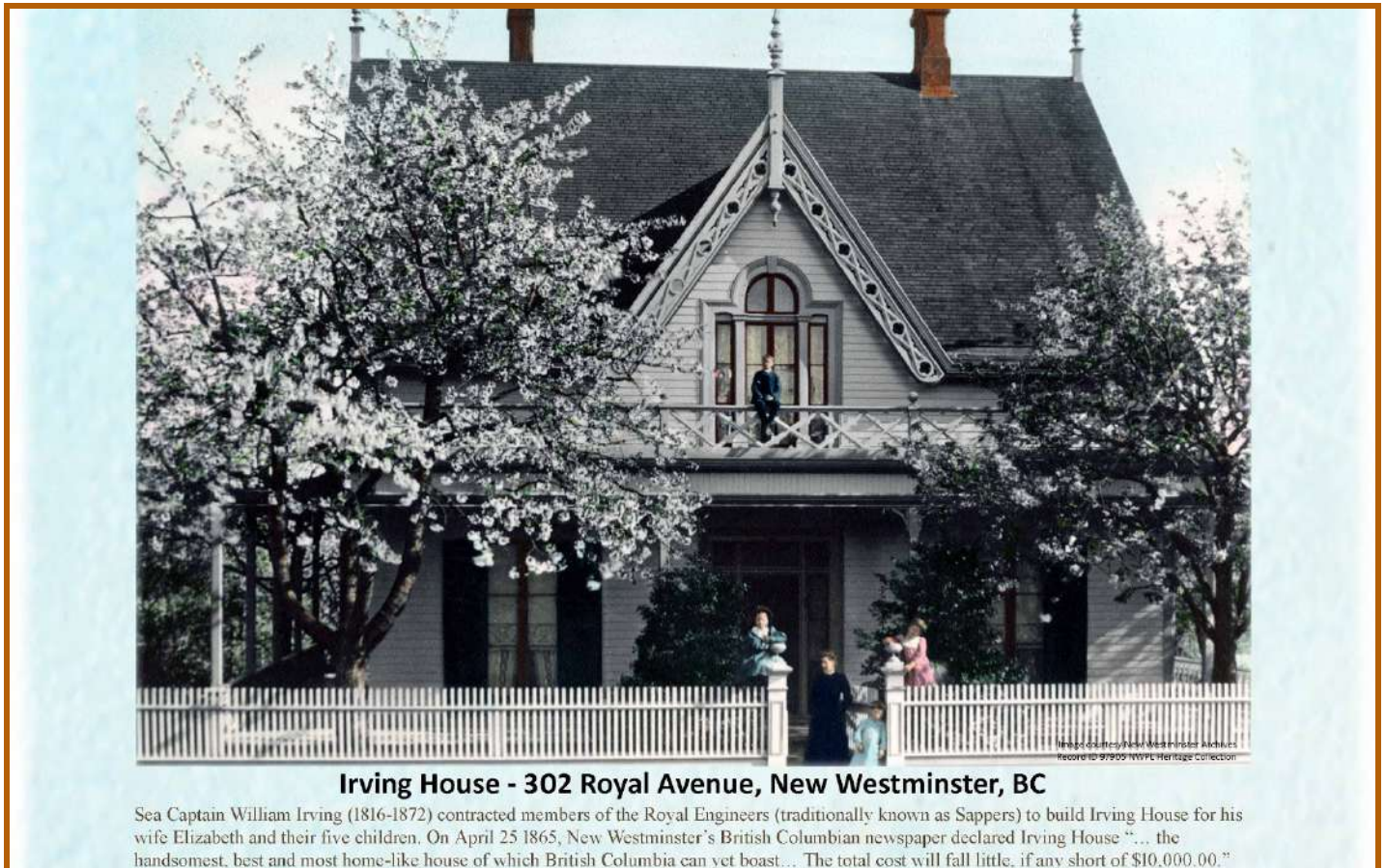
NOTE: Your update to Paid Access is what gives you access to the **MEMBERS ONLY** part of the website, so create your profile TODAY if you haven't already done so!



BCGS 2020 CALENDAR - APRIL

IRVING HOUSE

Photo: courtesy Bev Taylor. Photo construction: George Caldwell, written commentary: Sharon Clayton



Friend: What do you plan to do during isolation?

Me: Oh, I will be working on my family tree!

Twisted Twigs
an ancient television

Friend: Aren't you worried you'll run out of ancestors to research?

Me: ~ Laughs hysterically ~



British Columbia Genealogical Society Presents



50th Anniversary Alaska Cruise

September 12-19, 2021 • Holland America's NIEUW AMSTERDAM
Featuring Blaine Bettinger & Mary Kathryn Kozy on Sea Days



**7-DAY
ALASKAN
INSIDE
PASSAGE**

September 12–19, 2021

Nieuw Amsterdam	FARES FROM*
Interior Stateroom	\$1,517 ^{CAD}
Ocean-View Stateroom	\$1,957 ^{CAD}
Verandah Stateroom	\$2,582 ^{CAD}

*All Stateroom fares
INCLUDE Taxes
and Port Fees
of \$319.66
per passenger.
Prices are
Canadian Dollars.

Explore Alaska with Holland America Line

From calving glaciers to foraging
wildlife, Gold Rush history to native
cultures, no one knows the Great Land
better than Holland America Line.

Enjoy the real Alaska—plus exceptional
onboard programs and entertainment—
in classic cruise style.

DATE	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Sep 12	Vancouver		4:30pm
Sep 13	Inside Passage (Genealogy Day)		
Sep 14	Juneau	1 pm	10 pm
Sep 15	Skagway	7 am	9 pm
Sep 16	Glacier Bay	7 am	4 pm
Sep 17	Ketchikan	10 am	6 pm
Sep 18	Inside Passage (Genealogy Day)		
Sep 19	Vancouver	7 am	



BOOK NOW FOR THE BEST SAVINGS!

Call Robert Marcoux at 604.401.0484 or toll-free at 1.866.354.1869
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vorfrende

(n.) the joyful, intense anticipation that
comes from imagining future pleasures

The Dalai Lama says, “When we meet tragedy in life, we can react in two ways – either by losing hope and falling into self-destructive habits, or by using the challenge to find our inner strength.”

UPDATE from Sharon Clayton: We have lots to worry about right now, so I’m feeling grateful that our BCGS 50th Anniversary Alaska Cruise is a full 18 months away. If we can do our best to keep ourselves (and everyone we care about) safe and healthy this year, we will have much to look forward to in 2021. Imagine sharing amazing landlubber adventures, on-shore excursions, and lounging, laughing and learning while we’re at sea.

We aren’t all born optimists, but if spreading optimism is possible, I’m hoping many of you will catch it from me. Thank you for being willing and receptive.



To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Surrey Libraries, Family Search FHC, Vancouver Public Libraries and all other BC libraries are closed until further notice.



An email from Touchstone Nelson Museum of Art and History

Nelson Daily News - 1902-1920

I wondered if it would be possible to put a note in your newsletter regarding the release of the first 18 years of pages from the Nelson Daily News from 1902-1920? This was made possible partly through grant funding from the Irving K. Barber Learning Centre and the Columbia Basin Trust. The records are now available to search on the UBC Open Collections Historical Newspapers pages: <https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcnewspapers/nelondaily>

Thanks, Jean-Philippe

Jean-Philippe Stienne, MA
Archivist and Collections Manager
Touchstones Nelson Museum of Art and History
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Nelson, BC V1L 4E7
250.352.9813 x 268
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collections@touchstonesnelson.ca
www.touchstonesnelson.ca



A note from Vancouver Public Library

Ancestry Library Edition

www.vpl.ca

New! VPL cardholders can now enjoy access to Ancestry Library Edition from home for free until the end of April. A popular database for genealogical research, it includes census, baptism, marriage and military records. Visit our genealogy guide for more research help. Note: for a limited time, VPL and its partners ProQuest and Ancestry.ca, are offering complimentary access from home.

<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/ancestry-library-edition>



An email from Surrey Libraries Family History

Ancestry Library Edition

Hope you are all staying healthy in these very difficult times. Our libraries remain closed, and please note **all of our April programs are cancelled**. But we do have some great news:

Family historians in Surrey can now access Surrey Libraries' Ancestry account for FREE from their homes.

Those who want to log in from home must:

- (1) have a Surrey Libraries card
- (2) live in Surrey (see below if you live in Surrey but don't have a card)
- (3) access through our website: <https://www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history>

Access to this has been temporarily expanded to library cardholders working remotely, courtesy of ProQuest and its partner, Ancestry. Huge thanks to them. If you live in Surrey, or have a business in Surrey, you can obtain a free temporary online access card by filling out this online form:

<https://www.surreylibraries.ca/sign-library-card-home-0>

If you don't live in Surrey but do have a Surrey card, I'm sorry to say our remote access licensing with the database companies probably won't allow you to access our account remotely but do check with your local library system, as ProQuest/Ancestry is extending this to most public libraries that have an Ancestry account.

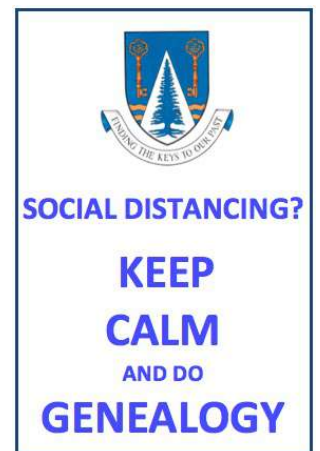
Happy searching. Stay well.

Carmen Merrells

Surrey Libraries Family History

Cloverdale Branch

familyhistory@surrey.ca



An email from Nanaimo Family History Society

Genealogy Workshop Rescheduled

"Steps to Our Ancestors", Nanaimo Family History Society's one-day genealogy workshop has been rescheduled for **Saturday, March 27, 2021**.

Our workshop is aimed at newer family historians or those who wish to refresh their research skills.

We have secured our full slate of speakers to provide presentations on topics including starting on the right path, standards of proof, immigration to Canada and an introduction to DNA testing.

We ask that you provide this updated information to your membership.

We will reach out again closer to the workshop date with additional details.

Until then, we hope that you remain safe in these uncertain times.

Kindest regards,

Ruth Stewart

Member - Workshop Planning Committee



Learn more or celebrate your Loyalist ancestor(s) with involvement in the UELAC VANCOUVER BRANCH - Upcoming meetings and events for Spring 2020 have been cancelled.

Enjoy a virtual tour in place of our 4th annual Branch Field Trip. Type the URL into your browser.

Our guide, Peter Moogk UE suggests this website about the 15th Field Regiment, Royal Canadian Artillery Museum and Archive at **Bessorough Armoury**. <https://www.vancouvergunners.ca>

In May we were expecting to hear from author Robert D. Watt UE who has written an award-winning book with and about Coast Salish artist Susan Point. You can learn more about this beautiful *book People Among the People: The Public Art of Susan Point*. We hope to enjoy his presentation when the COVID crisis is behind us.

A note from Christine Manzer, Vancouver Branch President

Nine years ago, when I first stumbled across my Loyalist heritage, I jump-started my understanding of the American Revolutionary War and the Loyalists by reading five YA novels by Jean Rae Baxter UE. If you have young people at home with you during this social isolation time I suggest you look for her e-books on the publisher's website. They are perfect for all ages. <http://ronsdalepress.com/authors/jean-rae-baxter/>



*The UELAC Vancouver Branch thanks the BCGS for the opportunity to have this notice in their monthly newsletter.
We wish everyone safety and good health during this unprecedented time of emergency in our country and throughout the world.*



Follow [UELAC Vancouver Branch](#) on Facebook for more information



GENEALOGY NEWS in CANADA

Upcoming events and new genealogical resources in Canada



Findmypast has more than Ontario newspapers... but you need to know where to look

Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 5 March 2020

<http://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=31193>

It appears Findmypast is playing with genealogists who research their ancestors who lived in Canada.

'The Forgotten Home Child' — new book released

Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 8 March 2020

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=31232>

Halifax writer Genevieve Graham's latest book, *The Forgotten Home Child*, is about a young girl caught in a scheme to rid England's streets of destitute children, and the lengths she will go to find her way home. It is based on the true story of the almost 130,000 British Home Children, between 1869 and 1948, who were taken from orphanages, streets and homes and shipped to Canada.

Researching Canadian soldiers who died in the Second World War

Snipped from Ken McKinlay's blog, Family Tree Knots, 11 March 2020

<https://familytreeknots.blogspot.com/2020/03/researching-cdn-soldiers-died-sww.html>

With the 75th anniversary commemorating the end of the Second World War in Europe approaching I've been seeing a number of posts in various Facebook genealogy groups asking about how to research family members that served in that war. This post will focus on some of the key resources I use to find information about those Canadians that served and died during the Second World War.

Free Canada high school and college yearbooks online

Snipped from Kenneth R. Marks' blog, The Ancestor Hunt, 13 March 2020

<https://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/free-canada-high-school-and-college-yearbooks-online>

Yearbooks from high school or college are one of the most fun set of records for a genealogist to search. It provides you with a ton of story-like information about your ancestor's life. What their interests were, what sports and clubs they participated in, and often some goofy snapshots of them before they settled into being an adult. And of course, you get to see what they looked like.

DNA GENEALOGY NEWS

Some web links to help with genetic genealogy research



DNA Painter: Traits now on chromosome map

Snipped from Sunny Morton's blog, Your DNA Guide, 5 March 2020

<https://www.yourdnaguide.com/ydgblog/2020/3/3/dna-painter-chromosome-map-adds-traits-feature>

DNA Painter's Jonny Perl has added a new feature for exploring traits and medical DNA markers on his chromosome mapping tool. Explore which ancestors contributed what to your genetic makeup!

LostCousins — Why a family historian should use DNA

Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 12 March 2020

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=31293>

The latest LostCousins newsletter has a good summary on DNA tests, why genealogists should consider them, what the tests reveal, and who should test.

A reading list to stay at home with

Snipped from Kitty Cooper's Blog, 14 March 2020

<https://blog.kittycooper.com/2020/03/a-reading-list-to-stay-at-home-with/>

Since you are all carefully practicing social distancing in order to do your part to slow this pandemic, I put together some DNA focused reading recommendations. I am very grateful to my kindle app which makes it easy to get books.

GENEALOGY SEMINARS & MEETINGS NEAR & FAR

Genealogical seminars and meetings in BC and environs as well as elsewhere in North America and Europe

From the Abbotsford Family History Society

"Our leaders have been keeping a close eye on the COVID-19 situation these past weeks. Being as we want to be good global citizens taking in the counsel of government, medical officials, etc., it has been decided that large gatherings will be postponed. Unfortunately, this means that the **2020 Abbotsford Family History Day will be cancelled**. This is unfortunate, but hope that all understand the precautionary measure being taken. We hope to see you all in 2021!"

Lyn McGonigal

AFHD Committee Member

Concerns about COVID-19 cause genealogical societies to cancel or postpone activities and events

Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 15 March 2020

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=31321>

Within 24 hours of the World Health Organization declaring COVID-19 a pandemic last Wednesday and federal, provincial and state governments issuing directives, genealogical societies in Canada and the United States started announcing they had closed their libraries and cancelled or postponed meetings, open houses, and conferences for at least the next four to six weeks.

MEMBERS' CORNER

In this section of the newsletter, we feature stories from our readers.



Patrick Keily, member #5414

As I Recollect

Patrick is on hiatus this month.





Meg McLaughlin, member #3847

Meg writes about history and genealogy in "A Genealogist's Path to History" at <http://genihistorypath.blogspot.ca/>. Read more about her findings in her blog.

Researching from Home

When I was doing research on the 1918 flu pandemic for the exhibit at PoCo Heritage's museum, I had no inkling that we were on the brink of another world wide health crisis. (The exhibit was covered in the March 2020 BCGS newsletter.) Considering what I learned about those bygone times, it is much better to be weathering this storm in 2020 than the one that happened just over 100 years ago.

Like then, our social gatherings are on hold but now it is much easier to access the news about what is happening and to stay in touch through our phones and online. In fact, there are a proliferation of things being made available online for us family history types, even more than usual. Lately, Genealogy à la carte seems to send at least two emails a day with new webinars. I



don't really need more genealogy distractions but I'm tempted by webinars that might contain that little nugget of information that will get me further in my research.

But that's the thing, there is so much on offer and the ancestors I am researching tick so many boxes when it comes to location, occupation and social group. So, it's easy to get distracted from what I am working on with new research possibilities. Then too, there is only so much to be found online. Sometimes I need to turn to books to get particular information, which is hard when

all local libraries are closed. Although, if I really search, I might just find something in my own personal library.



While our present situation makes research more difficult, it also brings up more questions. When I did the research on the 1918 flu pandemic, I had fleeting questions about what my grandparents had experienced during that time. Now that I am living through something similar, I would like to find out more about how their lives were affected. Unfortunately, no family stories about that time have been handed down. It was only a chance remark made about Regina's 1912 Cyclone that made me aware of that disaster which subsequent research showed me my maternal grandfather had lived through. Can I find similar information about how he and my grandmother, newly married in 1918, fared during the pandemic in Regina?

The research into the flu that I have already done for the museum exhibit gave me some idea of what happened in Canada, but I don't know much about what happened in England where my paternal grandparents lived. In 1918, my grandmother had a number of children, my father was a toddler and her oldest son had served in the war as had her second husband, my grandfather. How had they all fared? Even if the stories haven't been handed down, there must be something I can find out.



Janet White, member #4310

WE ARE ALL RELATED

"Preston, have you ever eaten at Preston's Restaurant in Vancouver?" I asked. "Do you know what it is named after?" "No," my brother-in-law replied.

"It is named for Lord Stanley, who Stanley Park is named after. He was born here in Preston. Let's stop and take a look in the archives and see if your mother's birth is in there." "Oh, she came over as a baby. Her name won't be here."

We had arrived in England a few days earlier, on our way to the Hebrides, and were passing through Preston, on the northwest coast of England. "Yes, it will," I said. Although Paul, my brother-in-law, is not keen on family history, it oµE his mother, so he was somewhat interested. We googled the archives' address and off we went.

"You know she came over on the Empress of Ireland in 1913, when she was four months old. It sank the next year, in a collision on the St. Lawrence. I guess nobody has ever heard of it because WW I started shortly after and consumed the news. It sank in fourteen minutes and over a thousand people died. You would think..."

"Oh, shoot, the Archives are closed on Monday. Let's look for a Catholic Church." So, again we googled and found five Catholic churches, which seemed strange for an English town. The drizzle was getting to us, but we had parked the car and although it seemed close by, it was many blocks away and we almost gave up. We decided to go to the church with the tallest steeple.



Left: St. Walburge Church Interior's 'Hammer-beams'

As we arrived, we found a man gardening out front, and stopped to talk to him. He said he had been an altar boy at the church, but now was just a "Friend

of the Church". It seems there was a committee of 'lapsed

Catholics,' who didn't want the old church to crumble away and worked to raise money for renovations.

He said there were only seventy-five people in the congregation and no one was in a position to be a priest there. Finally, it was decided that two French Jesuits would come over, "who would do the services in Latin, including baptisms, marriages and deaths." As a "Friend of the Church", he wrote to the local bishop to explain that no one wanted services in Latin any more. We felt badly for this predicament.

There used to be at least eight cotton mills in the town and many of the workers had come over from Ireland for the work, hence the large number of Catholic churches. Now the mills are all closed and the number of Catholics in the area much dwindled, so the churches are closing.

Right: St. Walburge Church Interior.



You could tell he loved the old church, called St. Walburge. The friend of the church told us the steeple, at 94 metres, was the third highest in all England and invited us inside. He explained that as the town was booming in the mid-1800s and Catholics were again allowed to worship in England, a large amount of money was spent on the architect, as the church was originally planned to be a cathedral. He was Joseph Hansom, who also invented the 'hansom cab', a horse-drawn carriage for two.

The thirty-five foot stained glass windows were stunning, as was the rose window. There was a statue of an Anglo-Saxon king's daughter who became a missionary and was later to become St. Walburga. Most amazing were the open inside rafters, called 'hammer-beams' made like an upside down ship, with no pillars to block the view. Evidently, Hansom was at the London Docks watching the shipbuilding with Charles Dickens when he got this idea. Dickens later based his book "Hard Times", on Preston. We

asked if we could possibly see the birth records for the church. Unfortunately, they were stored in the local school and the school was closed for the summer. He said he could look up the name for my brother-in-law and get back to him.

"What is the name you wanted researched?" he asked. "It's my Mom, Ellen Swarbrick: she was born in November of 1912", Paul answered.

The man froze. "What did you say?" "Swarbrick", he repeated. The man hesitated a moment then said, "I thought that is what you said. That is **my** name. Joseph Swarbrick!" We all stood there with our mouths open.

Then we grabbed his arm and gave him big hugs. "This is amazing!"

In all my life, I had never heard of another person with the last name of Swarbrick, but here he was, with the same

maiden name as Paul's mother. "It is actually a fairly common name around here," he said.

Then we noticed that Paul and he had some similar facial features, especially the end of his nose, the same height, and similar age: different years, though. We talked a while longer and gave him our information and an email address. We walked away shaking our heads. We are home now and waiting...



Pictured: Paul KILLEEN & "Friend of the Church" Joseph SWARBRICK

******* MARK YOUR CALENDAR *******



To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus,
all BCGS Events are postponed
until further notice.



Suggestions and comments are welcome. Please contact Judith Ueland and Linda Maitland at newsletter@bcgs.ca

To unsubscribe - please email the editors at the above address.

BCGS NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS



Judith Ueland
Vice-President



Linda Maitland
Director (2023)

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

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Surrey, BC
604-502-9119

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