

THE BCGS NEWS

JULY 2023

VOL 8 | ISN 05



*Summer
is here!*

**NEXT MEETING:
WEDNESDAY 7:30PM
JULY 12TH**

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Anne Scott, Victoria #5979

Lezlie Foster, Duncan #5981

Deb Phillips, Calgary #5980

Peg Morgan, Somerville, MA #5982

FROM THE PRESIDENT

EUNICE ROBINSON #112, PRESIDENT@BCGS.CA

As we know, new records are coming online all the time. The latest is the **1931 Canadian Census**. I've been waiting for this for 10 years. I found my Dad's family in Manitoba, where my grandfather is now shown as a widower, but I now have a date of emigration and naturalization. Little clues, but where will they lead me? I also found my Mum's family in Saskatchewan—no surprises there, but nice to have confirmation. It was fun to look at the families listed before and after—*recognizing so many surnames from the stories my Mum and her sisters used to relate to me.*

Tell us about your 1931 finds!

Please check our website for some new and exciting programs. Because the days are longer, as an experiment we will have the library open on Tuesday evenings. The Library will be closed in August.

While our Thursday evening Coffee Chats will take a break in July and August, some of the other Coffee Chats will continue – check the website and join them—including an IN-PERSON Writers group.

If you are wondering what to do with your time this summer, perhaps you might volunteer at the Library as a Newspaper Indexer, Memorial Photographer or some other helpful position at the Library. We would be happy to have you.

Looking forward to 'seeing' you at our July meeting.

Until next month

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Kris Foulds

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Janice Kidwell

Barbara Kinahan

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Loon Lake Writers Retreat

ALL UNDERLINED
ITEMS ARE
CLICKABLE AS
LINKS

COFFEE CHATS

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

COFFEE CHATS ARE ON
A SUMMER BREAK
UNTIL SEPTEMBER





the reach
GALLERY MUSEUM

**Guest Speaker:
Kris Foulds**

Kris Foulds is a community historian who focuses on the City of Abbotsford and is Curator of Historical Collections at The Reach Gallery Museum. She'll be presenting, *What's in a Name?* that traces contemporary Abbotsford place names back to explore their historical connection to people and events.

<https://thereach.ca/>

**Our thoughts and
condolences to
Darlene Austin**

...her husband Mel passed away on May 27th. He was just over 96 years old! He passed at home, peacefully. There will be no service.

Darlene, we are thinking of you.



LOST AND FOUND

Where Did They Go? Where Are They?

Hey members! Do you have a brickwall or a mystery ancestor? Please make a little write-up with some details: you never know who can help!



Hopefully you will have more success than this letter in a bottle!

Send your details to newsletter@bcgs.ca "Lost & Found" and we will publish your queries.

PARTICIPATE IN THE NEWSLETTER

Articles, photos, illustrations and images have been submitted by volunteer authors. The material in this newsletter may be reprinted unless otherwise noted. Please give appropriate credit to the original source. Feel free to pass on the newsletter to anyone who has an interest in genealogy and/or genetic genealogy.

Submission Deadline for the August newsletter is July 21, 2023 Email newsletter@bcgs.ca

We are happy to source copyright-free images for you.

BCGS Newsletter Team
newsletter@bcgs.ca,
 Sue Sullivan Editor/Designer
 with Sharon Clayton,
 Margaret Sharon & Jan Graf
Pub Review Team:
 Sherry King, Jo-Ann Blomquist,
 Sally Funk.

**British Columbia
 Genealogical Society**
MAILING ADDRESS
 PO Box 88054, Lansdowne Mall
 Richmond, BC V6X 3T6
Library Phone: 604-502-9119

READ

The **GenBlast** is in your INBOX—waiting for you

ONLINE MEETING

**WEDNESDAY
 JULY 12TH**

Members will receive a Zoom invitation to our monthly meetings, so watch your email inbox for the Zoom link, meeting number and password.

If you don't receive the email by the day before the meeting, please contact info@bcgs.ca for assistance.

A free Zoom account is needed to join these meetings.

STAY LATE AT THE LIBRARY

Tuesday evenings
 in July

CLICK INTO

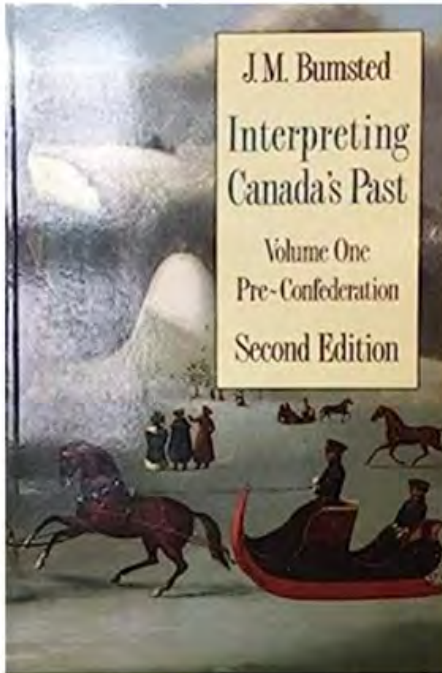
www.bcgs.ca
NEWS central

What's New!

AT THE BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

BETWEEN THE STACKS

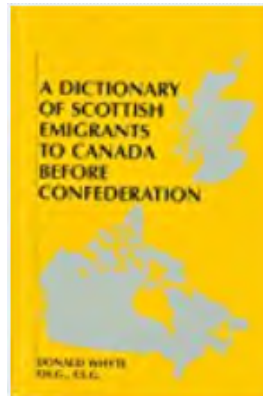
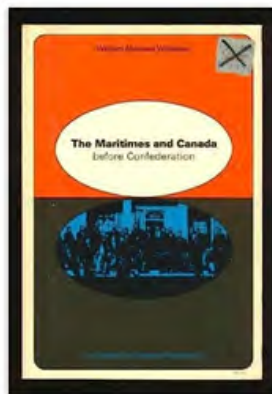
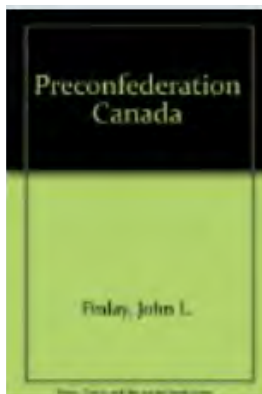
ANN BUCHANAN, #5583 • LIBRARY ADMINISTRATOR
 FEATURING BOOKS ON THE HOLIDAYS WE CELEBRATE



All those who celebrate Canada as their home and native land **celebrate Canada Day on July 1st**. The day commemorates the anniversary of the Constitution Act, which consolidated three colonies in British North America; Canada, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia into the single nation of Canada in 1867. British Columbia did not join Canada until July 20, 1871.

The BCGS has many books about confederation. Knowing the history of our country and how it came to be is important when interpreting the actions of our ancestors. I have picked out a few books that look interesting.

- ***Interpreting Canada's Past: Volume One: Pre-Confederation*** by J.M. Bumsted. Call No. 971 BUM V 01
- ***Preconfederation Canada: The Structure of Canadian History to 1867*** by John L. Finlay. No. 971 FIN



- ***The Maritimes & Canada Before Confederation*** by William Menzies Whitelaw. No. 971 WHI
- ***A Dictionary of Scottish Emigrants to Canada before Confederation - Four Volumes*** by Donald Whyte No. 971.004 WHY

Welcome to the LIBRARY!

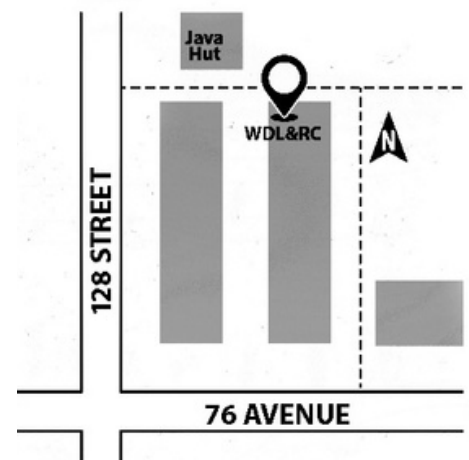
Tuesdays 10am to 8pm

Thursdays and Saturdays 10am to 3pm.

\$5 per day for non-members.

The library is closed all holiday weekends and if there is extreme weather.

Please call to confirm hours **604.502.9119. Unit 211, 12837 76 Ave, Surrey** There is no parking in the fire lanes. You must park in a designated BCGS parking stall or on the street. If in doubt, check with the library assistant on duty.



BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

RETIRING VOLUNTEERS

CORRINE JUBB, #5215 • BCGS ARCHIVIST



The BCGS would like to recognize and thank three library volunteers who have retired.

Marian Elder was a longtime library volunteer working the third Saturday shifts. She is familiar to many BCGS members as the lady in charge of book reviews.

Marian Wight was a member of the library catalogue team that determine subjects and Dewey Decimal classifications for new books before they are added to our catalogue and shelves.



Moyna Laing has been a BCGS volunteer for an *incredible 24 years*, faithfully showing up for her shifts (many of which she did solo) and sharing her knowledge with our library patrons. In recent years, Moyna has taken on responsibility for keeping the many bulletin boards in the library up-to-date, adding content and showcasing various library resources for the benefit of our members.



These volunteers quietly show up, week after week, to open the library, answer inquiries, re-shelve books and do all the other necessary library tasks. They are the backbone of the BCGS. Without them, we could not offer the range of services that we do. The photos show Marian Elder with a book that was reviewed, Marian Wight at the Fall Supper and Moyna Laing at Cyndi Ingle's 2019 seminar.



We offer you our heartfelt thanks, for your significant contributions to the BCGS, and our very best wishes for happy retirements!

IN-PERSON LIBRARY EVENT

Video Club Night, an IN-PERSON Coffee Chat, on **July 18th, 2023, 6-7:30pm** will be showing "Genealogy and the Little Ice Age" which is a **Legacy Family Tree webinar** given by Wayne Shephard.

The Little Ice Age was a climatic period that lasted from about AD 1300-1850. It had an enormous impact on the lives and livelihoods of people and contributed to famine, spread of disease, social unrest, injury to human beings and habitat, and, in some cases, migration.

**IN-PERSON
@ the Library
Writing Group
Coffee Chat
July 25th, 2023**
 Attendees are encouraged to bring stories they have written about their military ancestors.

COMING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Genealogy - The Next Step

When you have learned how to find birth, marriage, death, and census records, what's the next step in your genealogy research? This 5 week course will focus on in-depth research tips and techniques, particularly pre civil registration dates. Whether you can spend 20 minutes a day, or hours and hours, you will learn more efficient and effective ways to research. **Celia Lewis** and **Eunice Robinson**, two genealogists from the British Columbia Genealogical Society, will be presenting this class on **5 Monday evenings, 7-9 pm: Sept 11th**, 18th, 25th, Oct 2nd, [skip Oct 9th-Thanksgiving Day], Oct 16th. **Classes are FREE for BCGS members & Associate Society members, \$40 for non-members.** [REGISTER HERE](#)

SUE SULLIVAN, #4887 NEWSLETTER GAL





DEADLINES

newsletter@bcgs.ca

| Months | Pub | Deadline | Release | Meeting |
|-----------|------------|----------|---------|---------|
| August | Newsletter | July 21 | Aug 3 | Aug 9 |
| September | E-Journal | Aug 15 | Sept 15 | Sept 15 |
| October | Newsletter | Sept 26 | Oct 9 | Oct 11 |
| November | Newsletter | Oct 24 | Nov 6 | Nov 8 |

Here are the upcoming 2023 deadlines for the BCGS Newsletters and e-Journals. You can submit any time before each deadline. If you miss a deadline, you may have to wait until the next newsletter to see your article.

Family Story & Family Gatherings Workshops

presented by Brenda Jones, #5852

Register
online at
[bcgs.ca/
"Events"](https://bcgs.ca/Events)



Registration
is open to
BCGS
Members
only.



Family Story and Family Gatherings Workshops

- * Presented in September 2023 - Saturday Afternoons: 12:00 - 3:00 p.m.
- * In Person Workshops at BCGS Library in Surrey, B.C.
- * For beginner to advanced researchers, writers and planners
- * Register at BCGS for one or for both workshops

Saturday, September 16, 2023

Your Story is Our Story

A workshop for Writing and Sharing Family Stories

- * what is family story
- * sources for writing family story
- * skills for writing family story
- * ways to share your family story

Saturday, September 23, 2023

Our Story at Family Gatherings

A workshop to explore how family story may be written and shared with all ages in creative and fun ways at family gatherings

- * planning a family gathering
- * fun activities for writing and sharing family story at a gathering
- * involving all ages in family story activities at family gatherings

Time for both workshops: 12:00 to 3:00 p.m.

Location for both workshops: BCGS Library, Surrey, BC

Workshops presented by: Brenda Jones, BCGS Member

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE - REGISTER ON BCGS WEBSITE



IMPORTANT CHANGE

TAKE YOUR DONATIONS TO THE RETURN-IT DEPOT CLOSEST TO YOU

THIS EASY TO CONTRIBUTE FUNDRAISER CONTINUES

Please return your bottles, cans, etc. to your nearest Return-It Centre in clear plastic bags. Print a deposit label at their machine, using the BCGS phone number 604-502-9119.

Total \$ raised for 2023: \$597.22

Your contributions have kept 5,604 bottles and cans out of landfills.



FROM THE BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

GENEALOGICAL GEMS & ODDITIES



CELIA LEWIS, #5183

942 MIL Saints and Their Emblems in English Churches by R.L.P. Milburn
(Fellow and Chaplain of Worcester College, Oxford)

From early times, characteristic emblems became part of the presentation of particular saints, in glass or stone, or painted on screen panels in English churches. Sometimes the images are related to a Saint's tortures or as a pun on a Saint's name - for example:

St. Agnes, depicted with a lamb at her feet; the Latin name for lamb is agnus. In addition, re: the various Saints, the author wryly states in his Foreword:

"I have not attempted to disentangle variant traditions concerning a saint or to make nice distinctions between truth and falsehood, and the amount of space devoted to particular saints often corresponds rather with their medieval popularity than with their relative importance when judged by the sober standards of dispassionate historians."

A small image of St. Peter's frequently used emblem, a hand holding a large key, was inspired by the promise given by Jesus to his Apostle Peter. In Matthew xvi. 18: **"Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it; I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of Heaven."**

This book provides details of more than 250 Saints found in at least one English church. They are listed in alphabetical order, followed by an Appendix of Angels, Prophets, and Sibyls. At the end of this small book is an Alphabetical List of Emblems and a note on Vestments.

Everything you ever wanted to know about those church Saints' emblems, from an Anchor to a Wolf: rods, hooks, keys, battle-axes, swords, dressed as a bishop or a king, holding a book or stones or dagger or other item. A fascinating book to enhance your visits to English churches.

MEG MCLAUGHLIN, #3847
GENEALOGY BLOGGER

Research and serendipity

FamilySearch Library



When I prepared for my trip to Salt Lake City in April, I knew that one of the families I was going to focus on was my Mathesons. So on one of my days at the FamilySearch Library it was a given that I'd make my way upstairs from the British floor in the basement to spend a few hours on the upper floor where the American and Canadian books were held. I'd spent time there before looking for traces of one of my family lines' colonial past. For this trip, I was searching further ahead in time, my target this time was books to add to the story of my Matheson family.

Frustratingly, I'd found a birth / baptism record for my 2 x great grandmother, Catherine Matheson, but little else. She was born November 1, 1843 in Belle Creek, PEI and was listed in the 1851 census at the age of 7 in Puslinch, Ontario with her parents Kenneth and Anne, her sisters, Margaret and Henny and her brothers Alexander and Angus. By 1861 the family was in East Whitby, Ontario, but only her father Kenneth was listed as were Catherine, Angus and Henrietta. What had happened to the others? Prior digging had told me that by then, Catherine's mother Anne had died and her sister Margaret was living as a servant in a different household. As for her brother Alexander, his was a long and convoluted story.

Not that Catherine Matheson's story was easy to find out about either. She didn't appear in the 1871 census and the only information I found was on a marriage certificate for her daughter rather than for Catherine herself. The problem being, of course, that the events that caught up to Catherine happened in Ontario before 1869. Her daughter, my great grandmother, Lottie (Charlotte) was born in 1866 in Bobcaygeon, or so it is reported in

Charlotte's marriage record, which, names her father as Samuel Tripp and her mother as Catherine Matheson. Were her parents actually married? I've yet to find a record. What happened to Catherine? I'm assuming she died, because Samuel Tripp married Mary Redin in 1867. In 1871, both her grandfather and father appear to claim Charlotte. She was recorded as five-year-old "Lottie Mathison" in the household of Kenneth Mathison in Fenelon, and as five-year-old "Sharlott Trip" in the household of Samuel Tripp in Fenelon. That made me question who was looking after young Charlotte, but my quest was to find out more about her mother Catherine, so while looking through the books on the library's North American floor, one of my tasks was to find potential repositories for records of events in Bobcaygeon in the mid 1860s.

While checking through the North American books, my other task was to find information to add to my knowledge about Alexander Matheson. After his mother's death in the late 1850s, Alexander left the family home in Puslinch to find work. When he came back three years later, his family had moved. At that time people were difficult to track down. He tried looking in Hamilton, where his father once worked, but by 1860 he had made his way across the US border. It wasn't a peaceful time to start living in America. He ended up in Illinois, which sent many regiments to fight for the Union.

Alexander was among the first recruits and I wanted background information to get a better idea of what he experienced. I was looking for the human element to make sense of his war experience, but his official record was pretty "bare bones". There were lots of books about the Civil War available, but one of the best sources I found was a book derived from letters sent home by a Union soldier in the 15th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois volunteers. Combining that with the information in Alex's army records gave me a fuller picture. The basic things that stand out in my memory about his experience were that he fought in the Battle of Shiloh in 1862, and was shot in the leg in 1864 and taken prisoner.

I still had to go through the information I gathered to figure out my next steps for finding out more about Catherine and Alexander, but in May, before I had a chance to do that research, I travelled to Nashville, Tennessee, where the Nashville Pathway of History provided information about the battle of Shiloh. With proof written in stone, I won't forget that it took place in Tennessee. One of the rest stops that we patronized on our musical tour of the South displayed a map of Tennessee's Civil War locations.





Stone about Battle of Shiloh in the Nashville Pathway of History

If only I could stumble across a roadside display to help me document Catherine Matheson’s story!

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

REUNION

eJOURNAL NEWS

LYNNE FLETCHER, #5353
E-JOURNAL EDITOR

Summertime 🎵 And the living is easy . . .

Sunshine and warm (not hot) weather always brings this old song to mind. It's time to be outside, doing something, or just enjoying the sun.

Ten years ago my family was gathering up lawn chairs, checking emails, making potato salad, and generally getting ready for a Corriveau Family Reunion. All the Corriveau cousins that I could find had been invited to a day at the beach, in Burnaby Mountain Park, and a chance to meet all the members that they hadn't seen since July of 1977 at our last reunion in Quesnel. We also met their spouses and children and shared pictures from various family trees . We had a lovely sunny day and lots of space to spread out in the park.

This weather reminds me that it is time to think about another reunion, just to keep everyone up to date.

Is your family planning to attend a reunion this summer?
Will you be travelling to visit relatives that you haven't seen for a long time?
Would you share those memories, and the family developments that you find with our members?

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



Postcard

by Janice Kidwell, #5033

In honour of the arrival of Summer, this month's Postcard will feature a mother swan and her cygnets.

The first records of the word cygnet come from the 1400s. It comes from the Latin *Cygnus*, from the Greek *kýknos*, meaning "swan." This Latin root serves as the genus name for swans, as well as the name of the swan-shaped constellation *Cygnus*. The ending *-et* is used in nouns to indicate smallness.

Swans' nests are on the ground near water and about a metre across. Unlike many other ducks and geese, the male helps with the nest construction and will also take turns incubating the eggs. The eggs hatch after 35–41 days.

Swans are highly protective of their nests and will viciously attack anything that they perceive as a threat to their chicks, including humans.

In late March and early April, the swans return north to their nesting marshes. There the one-

year-old cygnets leave their parents to live on their own. Adult swans begin their annual cycle of building nests, mating and raising their new cygnets.

The young birds, or cygnets, sometimes ride on their parents' backs and remain with the adult birds for four or five months.

Cygnets keep their name until they're a year old at which time they have two options for names. An adult male swan is called a cob and an adult female swan is called a pen. While there is no specific term for a group of baby swans, a group of swans is called a flock.

There is neither a message nor a stamp on the back of the postcard.

Information on the back of card is: Aufnahme Hans Buhner, Schaffhausen. Photoglob Zurich Vevey. A handwritten note indicated that this postcard had been purchased in Lucerne, Switzerland in 1990.



RESEARCHING MY FAMILY HISTORY

BY BARBARA KINAHAN, #2373

My interest in family history and genealogy started when I was quite young. I grew up in my maternal grandparents' house where I found many treasures. I loved the attic, lined with trunks full of memories of times past.

Of all the treasures, my favourite is an old photograph album from the late 1800s into the early 1900s. It has a padded maroon leather cover and when open, it was to me, a treasure chest. I spent hours looking through the photographs. I liked the old fashioned clothing and hair styles- often quite severe. I admired the bits of jewelry, such as dainty brooches, worn by the ladies. Some of them even wore old fashioned bonnets. In family portraits, the men were grouped, standing, looking their best in their Sunday clothes.

I often wondered who they were.

One day in 1944, as I sat beside my grandpa on the sofa, I said, "Grandpa why don't you tell me who these people are?" So, at age twelve, I started my Family Research.

The inside of the old album is page after page of fine paper, now fragile, embossed with printed decorations. In the middle of each page is a space where each photo, backed with cardboard, is inserted. With fountain pen in hand, I wrote the name of each person below their likenesses. I was damaging the book's value as an antique, but making it priceless to a family historian.

Many years later, after several visits to England, I did get seriously interested in genealogy. I joined the BC Genealogical Society which is a very active and well organized group of people devoted to finding their family roots. The Church of Latter Day Saints, the Mormons, has long been a good research source. They have travelled the world photographing and recording a multitude of documents. When I started in the 1980s, research was not easy, but with advances in internet technology, searches are now easier and more accurate.

My grandfather had come alone to Canada, aged twenty. What had happened to the brothers and sisters he had named in the album? Well, that really didn't take much research. After all, they had all been farmers in County Durham or in Yorkshire. In 1925, my grandfather travelled back, alone, to visit his sisters and brothers. His parents had died and so had one sister.

From that visit, I have three formal photographs. Thanks to the old album, I was able to name everyone in the pictures.

This was all very well, but genealogy is like 'eating peanuts'. Once you start, there is always more to find. I had searched records: births, baptisms, marriages, children, deaths, burials and census records. I had saved them on Ancestry.com, on my computer and I also filed paper copies in large binders.

But there was much more to do. In 1987, I found my first 2nd cousin in England. He knew a lot about the family, told us stories and led us through many church graveyards. Since that time, I have met ten 2nd cousins, all grandchildren of my grandfather's sisters and brothers, and thirteen of the next generation. We have visited them in England many times, and five of them have come to Canada to meet their cousins. In August 2022, on a trip to England and Scotland, I visited thirteen cousins of various ages.

It has been a great pleasure to meet and and befriend these cousins across the world, and to share the old photos with them. None of this would have happened if I had not written in the old album so long ago. We would have just dismissed the photos as 'probably grandpa's relatives.'

The album is pretty fragile now, but it lies, safely wrapped in a pillowcase, in my eldest daughter's dining room buffet. My research has been a great journey of discovery. Truly, ' blood is thicker than water.'

Barbara's grandpa was Thomas Laing who, with his son and grandson farmed on Sea Island for 3 generations, from 1895.

MEET THE MEMBER

SUE SULLIVAN, #4887 NEWSLETTER GAL

Since the first meeting of the BCGS that I attended, I noticed Judith. I have duly noted that she volunteers a lot— so much support! Judith is fun too, I hear her chuckling and laughing, but also being serious when it's called for. We should all be so lucky as to have a friend like her in our sphere of people.



Introducing Judith M Johnston Ueland, #4913

ABOUT YOU

Career/Profession: Office Manager/Bookkeeper
Partner - Gen or Non-gen? Husband, Bernard P. Ueland. Definitely non-gen! Supportive, but not interested.

Special skills, interests & hobbies: Singer/Guitar, Sewing, Skating/Skiing Sports, and GENEALOGY

ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH—

How old were you when you started/became interested in family history?

Probably about age 13 when distant relatives of my maternal grandmother came to visit. They had a girl about my age with them and I am still in touch with her. Much discussion was made as to how each person was related as there were a number of marriages between brothers of one family to sisters of another which made for a lot of double cousins. Two other ladies came to our town some years later following a one-name study (Sponheimer / Spoonemore). They produced a book entitled “Sponheimer Kindred” a copy of which I own and is also held in the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Why did you start researching? I began in earnest in the 1990s. Although interested, for many years, I had no time. I began with Ancestry and soon outgrew the limitations of this platform.

What surnames do you research?

Maternal: Sponheimer/Spoonemore, Ridenour, Clifton, Beeler, Shepard, Shreeve, Harvey.

Paternal: Johnston, Robinson, Wallace, McCarthy, Shea, Parker, Denham, Sanders.

Marriage: Ueland, Sveinsvoll, Tracy, Ellis.

And many more associated names with extended family members.

Which branch of your tree is your favourite and why?

The Harvey/Shreeve family (my maternal grandmother's side). I had hoped to find, and still do, the family tree for my great-great-grandmother, Happy/Hepzibah Harvey Shreeve (born about 1813 in England and died 1854/5 in Canada). The family

story claims she was an only child known as “Lady Happy Harvey of Thornton Hall”—the daughter of a titled man and his wife. Hepzibah Happy is said to have run away with the coachman and was forever after shunned by her parents. Highly exaggerated I expect, but the same story has been handed on by another distantly related descendant—lending it a grain of truth. I have not been able to trace her parents through many years of research. A possibility exists, but no record has been obtained to provide proof.

What geographic areas do you research?

Canada (BC, Ontario, Prairies and Nova Scotia),

United States (Ohio, Missouri, Kansas, Utah, California, Oregon and Washington State),

England (Norfolk, London and Sussex),

Ireland (Cork) and **Northern Ireland** (Armagh, Monahan). **Germany** (Sponheim, Mosell Valley).

Norway (Rogaland region).

What have been your biggest breakthroughs?

Discovering the history of the **Johnston family from BC through to Ireland**. None of this history had been known to my father's family except for vague references to some names and a short span of time which my father's grandparents had spent in Kansas, USA. The discovery they were Ulster Scots by way of Northern Ireland came from a deposition found in Salt Lake City made by one of the earliest Johnston immigrants to Canada, who became a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints at the very beginning of the movement.

My father's mother's **McCarthy family** history was completely unknown except for her mother and one brother. Tracing that family back to London, England and subsequently to Ireland was a thrill. None of it came through an “aha” moment, however. It was built from one record to another allowing a picture of the family travels and settlements. Through this research, I discovered my Johnston (McCarthy) grandmother was the youngest of 10 children.

MEET THE MEMBER

The most surprising story about the McCarthy family is that they had initially intended to immigrate to Australia but were not allowed to land upon arrival, because there was a disease aboard—measles? scarlet fever?—and the ship was ordered to return to England. Determined to immigrate, they then chose Canada. Thus we became Canadians.

Which is your most stubborn Ancestor?

Lady Happy Harvey of Thornton Hall, as described above, has been my least successful and still desired research goal. Her history from her marriage has been thoroughly researched as have her husband and children but her origins are still unknown.

ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BCGS—

How did you discover the BCGS? I had been looking for many years for a genealogy base. One day I found a small notice at the Burnaby Public Library about the BCGS. I called the number and spoke with Dolly Hannah, who had surprisingly, spent some years in the same small village from which I came. She urged me to attend a meeting and so I did. I believe the first meeting I attended was in the Fall of 2001.

What do you miss most about in-person meetings?

Contact with old friends and not being able to associate with new members on an informal basis.

Have you ever volunteered for the BCGS and in what capacity?

Yes. I was asked to join the Board in 2002 and have sat on the Board in a number of different positions since. I began as *Corresponding Secretary* and became *Treasurer* two years later, followed by *Second* and *First Vice Presidents*, *President* and, of course, *Past President*. I am still on the Board as a *Director* with 2023 making my Board membership **20 years consecutively**. I am also a *Facilitator* for various research areas within Canada and the United States and have given presentations both to the BCGS and for the yearly “*Finding Your Roots*” conferences by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. I participated in BCGS research trips to Salt Lake City a number of times and joined the BCGS Scotland tour in 2010. I have been involved in many other aspects of the Society including the acquisition of the BCGS “*Crest*” aka *Coat of Arms*, written a number of articles for the *BC Genealogist Journal*, initiated the BCGS



Newsletter and the weekly “*GenBlast*”. I was also involved in the acquisition of the UEL Library Collection and am unofficially the “representative” for the UEL to the BCGS.

I am eternally grateful to the BCGS for being the base from which I can work on my family history and extend my genealogical knowledge. It is my ‘family history home’.

What did you like best about volunteering?

Being able to participate in a Society for the benefit of the Society and to extend my own knowledge of genealogy.

Do you or have you ever used our Library? / What did you go there to look for?

I have used the library on many occasions. I volunteered the first Tuesday of the month for a number of years and got to know some of the other volunteers, who did not always attend the meetings. **Marvin Millis** was a great help in searching for material that guests requested.

Did you experience any great discoveries at the library?

Books are an exciting and invaluable resource. I’ve looked and found unusual bits about personal family members and other families while researching their histories. My most interesting find were the books by **Henry Z Jones Jr.** about the *Palatine Families of New York*. His books have given me leads and information about my earliest ancestors to North America (Sponheimers and Ridenours) which I would not have been able to access otherwise. **The BCGS is still the only library in Western Canada to carry his books.**



VETERANS BOOK 2023 EDITION



Entries and photos have been steadily arriving!

Most of the entries have been from **WWI & II**. Below are some other ideas of Battles your ancestors may have been entangled with. All men and women who served in one way or another (winners, losers and victims) are welcome for submission. Questions can be sent to veterans@bcgs.ca

Use the Event dates from below to create a timeline for possible birth years of relatives who served



RULE of thumb: subtract 20–30 years from the start of each event and look for relatives the right age in the right place.

Dates for Wars, Conflicts, Rebellions and Revolutions:

CANADA

Seven Years War ((1756–1763)
The Conquest (La Conquête) (1759-60)
United Empire Loyalists (Post 1783)
War of 1812 (1812-1815)
Rebellions (1837-38)
Fenian Rising (1867)
Red River Rebellion (1869-1870)
South African (Boer) War (1899-1902)
World War I (1917-1918)
World War II (1941 –1945)
Korean War (1950-1953)
FLQ October Crisis (1970)
Gulf War (1990-1991)
Afghanistan (2001-2014)

UNITED STATES

French and Indian War (1754–63)
American Revolution (1775-1783)
War of 1812 (1812-1815)
Indian Wars (approx. 1817-1898)
Mexican War (1846-1848)
Civil War (1861-1865)
Spanish-American War (1898-1902)
World War I (1917-1918)
World War II (1941 –1945)
Korean War (1950-1953)
Vietnam War (1964-1975)
Desert Shield/Desert Storm (1990-1991)

INDIA

https://www.en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Anglo-Indian_Wars

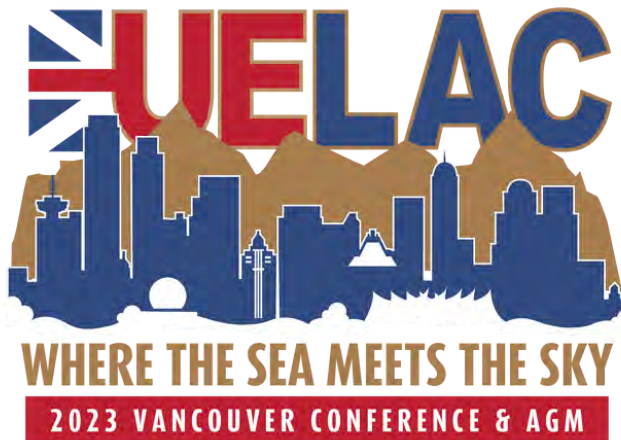
**Submit before
Sept 30th
BCGS.CA
home page**

Links for more events to consider

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/list-of-wars-2031197>
<https://www.brainscape.com/.../influential-wars-in>

Links to helpful records

<https://library-archives.canada.ca/end/collection/research-help/military-heritage/pages/military-heritage.aspx>
https://familysearch.org/en/wiki/United_States_Military_Records
<https://ancestry.com/search/collections/catalog/?title=military>
<https://www.fold3.com>



Many members of the four Pacific Region branches worked well together to accomplish our 2023 conference—*Where the Sky Meets the Sea*. Those 4 days in early June were filled with fun, food, entertainment and a good exchange of ideas and information to encourage UELAC members from across Canada to enhance the life and influence of their branches in the Dominion. The next page highlights many of the conference events.

It was very special to have the BCGS library represented in the exhibit hall — showing off some the fantastic collection of Loyalist books available at the Genealogical Library and Research Centre.

Photo credits: Linda Nygard UE



PACIFIC REGION

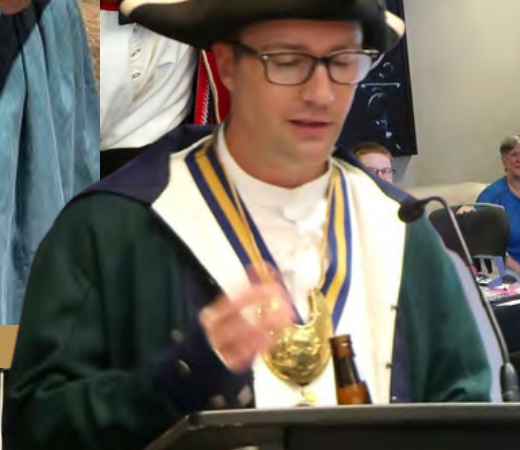
Where do you live?

- Fraser Valley/Chilliwack
- Vancouver Island
- Thompson/Okanagan area
- Lower Mainland/Vancouver

The four UELAC Pacific Region Branches are here to help you discover your Loyalist history

We'd love to hear from you!
Find us at uelac.ca/branches





UPCOMING FALL WORKSHOPS FROM
REGISTER:
FAMILYHISTORY@SURREY.CA



RESEARCHING YOUR ENGLAND ANCESTORS FROM HOME
THU SEP 28 | 10AM - 11AM | CLOVERDALE BRANCH

From about 2000 on, there has been an explosion of records to be found on genealogy sites such as FamilySearch, Ancestry, FindMyPast, and other more narrowly-focused websites such as Find-a-grave, Deceased Online, and FreeBMD.

Presented by Robert Whitlock. He will provide a brief background on this expansion, while concentrating on local resource centres and their free access, using some lesser-known (but valuable!) websites, as well as working with contacts in England who are willing to do so small-scale research on your behalf, for free.



INTRODUCTION TO RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY
WED OCT 11 | 6PM - 7:30PM | SEMAIHMUO BRANCH

Explore the many benefits of family history research, such as solving family mysteries and creating legacies for families. Discover available resources and where to find them. Learn about common pitfalls, and how the staff and resources at Surrey Libraries' Family History Department can assist family historians.



ONLINE EVENT

LOCATING ONTARIO LAND RECORDS
FRI OCT 13 | 10 - 11AM | DIGITAL BRANCH

Join us for this online program to learn how to use resources at the Archives of Ontario and access land records for your Ontario ancestors.

Presented by Emma Robinson, Archivist in the customer service unit at the Archives of Ontario. Emma holds a Master of Information (MI) degree from the University of Toronto in the Archives and Records Management concentration, and a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.H.) from Queen's University in History and Psychology. Emma has a background in cultural heritage and has previously worked with corporate and academic collections.



PUBLISHING YOUR MEMOIRS OR FAMILY HISTORY
THU OCT 26 | 10 - 11:30AM | CLOVERDALE BRANCH

Do you want to publish your writing but are not sure where to start? There are a myriad of ways to share your story or family history. Learn how to define your audience and package your story for that audience. Join us for an overview of publishing options, terminology, and what you need to know to get started.

Presented by Andrea Lister—Andrea is the principal of Absolutely Literate, specializing in editing, research, writing and design. She is a former editor of British Columbia History magazine.















SURREY LIBRARIES, Cloverdale Branch—
Family History Department
5642 – 176A Street, Surrey, BC, Canada V3S 4G9
T 604.598.7328 | www.surreylibraries.ca

LOON LAKE WORKSHOP & RETREAT
2-DAY/3-NIGHT WRITING RETREAT WITH LYNN PALERMO
OCT 30 - NOV 2, 2023



Relax and refuel your creative powers in a getaway tailored for family history writers. If you're a family historian eager to make a real transformation in your writing, unlock your creativity and add depth and meaning to your family history stories, then join us for this powerful retreat. You'll connect with your creative self, other amazing writers, and learn to ELEVATE your writing and family history narratives.

<https://www.familyhistorywritingstudio.com/loon-lake-retreat/>

| Sunday–Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|--|--|---|
| JULY TUES - 11th Extended Library Hours until 8pm MON/10-NEWSLETTER  |  12 Meeting 7pm  | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| TUES - 18th Extended Library Hours until 8pm  Video Group Chat Tuesday 18 July 6:30pm | 19 | 20 |  AUGUST NEWSLETTER DEADLINE |  22 Genealogy Orientation 10:30am   UELAC Picnic |
| TUES - 25th Extended Library Hours until 8pm  Writers Group Chat Tuesday 18 July 6:30pm | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 Last day library is open until August 26th |
| AUGUST <div style="background-color: #8B4513; color: white; padding: 10px; text-align: center;"> BCGS Genealogical Library and Research Centre is CLOSED in August </div> | 2 |  NEWSLETTER RELEASE | 4 |  BC DAY Long Weekend |
| |  9 Meeting 7pm  | 10 | 11 | 12 |
| | TUES 15-EJOURNAL DEADLINE  | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| LIBRARY RE-OPENS  Tuesdays– check this space for Extended Library Hours Notice: until 8pm | 30 | 31 | 1 | 2 |

Coffee Chats are on a Summer Break

Also known as Special Interest Groups [SIGs]

If you would like to be included in a chat, please visit the [BCGS website](#) or email the address below to register. Not sure? Check the BCGS Website Calendar-of-events.



Chinese Genealogy COFFEE CHAT

Wednesday, Sept 6, 10 to 11 am

With Linda Yip

RSVP hello@past-presence.com



SCOTLAND COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, Sept 21, 7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson & Lorraine Irving

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ENGLAND COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, Sept 14, 7 to 9 pm

With Sandy Cunliffe

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



INDIGENOUS COFFEE CHAT

Tuesday, Sept 26, 10:30am to Noon

With Aboriginal Genealogy Association

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

Parental Puzzles (NPE) COFFEE CHAT

Monday, Sept 18, 1 to 3 pm

With Sharon Clayton

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ONTARIO COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, Sept 28, 7 to 9 pm

With Janet White

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ADVANCED DNA COFFEE CHAT

Tuesday, Sept 19, 7 to 9 pm

With Terry Hartley, Jim Graham & Kathleen Graham

RSVP Terry Hartley terrhart1@gmail.com

Would you like to facilitate a Coffee Chat? Contact Eunice
coffeechat@bcgs.ca