

THE BCGS NEWS

NOVEMBER 2023
VOL 8 | ISN 08



Dear Willie,
This day, I am in receipt of
your favour of the 31st January ultimo
I am very gratefully of your
remembrance and I send you my
most sincerely thanks. —

**NEXT MEETING:
WEDNESDAY 7:30PM
NOVEMBER 8TH**

...not write you
...for this time, for we are
...expecting what our
"Assemblée Nationale"

[READ THE FULL LETTER HERE](#)



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALL UNDERLINED ITEMS
ARE CLICKABLE AS LINKS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

EUNICE ROBINSON #112, PRESIDENT@BCGS.CA

Computers are becoming an important part of family history research. They help us organize our findings, record our research, and access some pretty amazing sources. But learning how to use this technology effectively is rather a hit-and-miss proposition. Several years ago, one of our members shared the secret of Windows' Snipping Tool. Oh my goodness, this little tip made a world of difference in how I captured information. I attended the first **Kindertech session** at the Library on Saturday, October 21st. Although the topic was about screenshots and tips on capturing portions of the screen, we did discuss other computer tools. I would highly recommend this class to our members. I learned some other shortcuts that I will definitely use.

Remembrance Day is a special day when we pause and take a moment to remember those who volunteered, served, fought and died so that we can enjoy the freedoms that we do. The overwhelming response to our Veterans' Book certainly expressed that feeling of pride and appreciation. *Lest we Forget!*

And finally, I know it is early, and some of you might decry the mention of Christmas, but we are probably very difficult for our families to buy gifts for. Perhaps we can suggest that they might pay for your 2024 BCGS membership for 2024—a gift that we certainly will use. Or if you have a friend or family member who has expressed an interest in their family history, perhaps you could give them a Gift Certificate. **Contact membership@bcgs.ca for more information.**

COFFEE CHATS

[Click here to go directly to the page](#)



CALENDAR OF EVENTS
HERE

UPCOMING
EVENTS



SEND YOUR DISCOVERIES TO THE NEWSLETTER



**Submission Deadline
for the January
newsletter is Wed.**

Dec 27

newsletter@bcgs.ca

Everyone wants to read about what you want to share! Send in your story about family history and what made you shout with victory as a brick wall came tumbling down!

BCGS Newsletter Team
newsletter@bcgs.ca,

Sue Sullivan Editor/Designer
with Sharon Clayton,
Margaret Sharon

Pub Review Team:

Sherry King, Jo-Ann Blomquist,
Sally Funk.

Publishing Team:

Sheila Albrecht
Judy Galpin

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**British Columbia
Genealogical Society**
MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 88054, Lansdowne Mall
Richmond, BC V6X 3T6
Library Phone: 604-502-9119

JOIN US

The BCGS 2024 Membership Renewal Campaign is on NOW! Please click [here](#) to renew and ensure you will get all our notifications and publications.

You don't want to miss out, do you?

WELCOME TO NEW & RENEWING MEMBERS

Christine Bradley, Vancouver #6002

Grant Lowe, Edmonton #6003

Returning Members:

Sally Smaha, Terrace #3026

Ben Whiting, New Westminster #5442

Affiliate Society:

South Cariboo Genealogy Group in 100 Mile House - #A4668

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MEETING NOTES

NOVEMBER

**GUEST SPEAKER
COLIN STEVENS**



WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 8TH

Members will receive Zoom invitations 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.

Updates on BCGS Projects:

- *Janice Kidwell on the Holten Project*
- *Sue Sullivan on the Veterans Book*
- *Denise MacMartin on the Memorials Project*

Does your Employer or Former Employer have a Program like this?

We know that **Telus** has a program for employees and retirees. Those who volunteer can submit their volunteer hours, and the company will give a donation to their choice of charitable groups. Over the decades we have had several **Telus Retirees** do this – *Peter Claydon, George Caldwell, Marianne Cote-Malley* to name a few.

Linda Fleury, our new **Newspaper Index Facilitator**, worked with **RBC**. She says they have the same sort of program.

AT THE LIBRARY

In-Person at the
BCGS Library
211-12837-76 Avenue, Surrey



Begin with Books

Our Annual Fall **Begin With Books** Event

Sunday, November 12 from 9am – 3:30pm.

There will be **5 educational sessions** and a **Used Book Sale**.

Come when you can! You can attend one or all sessions.

The event hours are being extended to allow for longer educational sessions.

The topics and times are:

- **9:30 The Honour Roll, BCGS Remembrance Book 2023**
Presenter: Susan Sullivan
- **10:30 How to Downsize your Genealogy for an Archivist**
Presenters: Judy Rosmus & Corrine Jubb
- **11:30 Scotland & Maps** Presenter: George Caldwell
- **1:00 Remembering your Dead through Find-A-Grave and Memorial Benches** Presenter: Eunice Robinson
- **2:00 FamilySearch.org – Old and New** Presenter: Jeannie Vance.

No Registration is required—just show up!

AT THE LIBRARY



DIGITIZING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY

Presented in-person
by **Margaret Sharon**
November 25th
10:30 – 1:30

BCGS Library

and Research Centre
211-12837-76 Avenue, Surrey, BC

Have you got old family photos, slides, negatives, movies, tapes, and/or documents in boxes at home? Are you worrying about what might happen to them after you go to join your ancestors? Bring a few samples of your stuff to this workshop presentation to learn about options and methods for digitizing your memorabilia for future generations of your family to enjoy.

PLEASE REGISTER AT:

<https://www.bcgs.ca/bcgs-education>

IN-PERSON @ the Library Nov 28, 2023

Writing Group Coffee Chat 6—7:30pm

The Library will be open from 10am to 8pm (the last Tuesday of each month)

NEW COFFEE CHATS

FAMILY TREE MAKER

A new Zoom Coffee Chat for Family Tree Maker® Users Group begins on **November 20, 2023, from 3:00pm – 4:30pm.**

The facilitators are **Sharon Syrette** and **Janet White.**

Family Tree Maker is genealogy software that makes it easier to track your family history, preserve your legacy and share your unique heritage.

This Coffee Chat will allow all levels of users to share their experiences. If you are new to family history, you will appreciate how this intuitive program lets you easily grow your family tree with simple navigation, tree-building tools, and integrated Web searching.

If you are already an expert, you can dive into the more advanced features, options for managing data, and a wide variety of charts and reports.

You can register to receive a Zoom invitation by contacting:
coffeechat@bcgs.ca

IN-PERSON LIBRARY EVENT

KINDERTECH is a new and in-person workshop that will be held on the third Saturday of each month, beginning November 18 at BCGS Library 10am - noon

Kindertech is intended to teach very simple computer techniques to people who always wanted to know, but did not know where to start. Workshops in the next few months will cover website member log-ins, downloading to thumb drives, screenshots, accessing YouTube and Zoom, and detecting scams.

Facilitators **Margaret Sharon** and **Ann Buchanan** have experience with both Mac and PC computers. This is a "hands-on" workshop; bring your own computer (laptop or tablet) so you can practice at your own pace, with as much support as you need.

BETWEEN THE STACKS

AT THE BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

ANN BUCHANAN, #5583 • LIBRARY ADMINISTRATOR

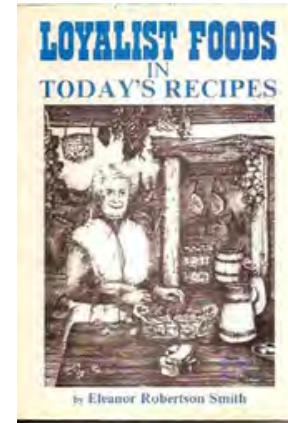
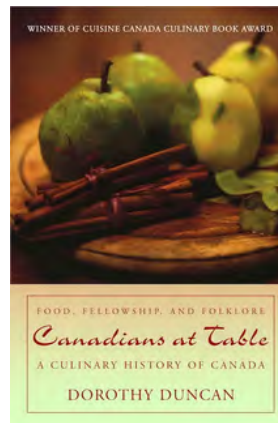
Thanksgiving

In Canada we celebrate Thanksgiving on the second Monday of October. However, it is a national holiday on various dates in Grenada, Saint Lucia, Liberia, and the USA. It is an unofficial holiday in Brazil and the Philippines. I know the American Thanksgiving is the fourth Thursday in November since "Black Friday" with all of its sales and bargains is the next day!

Some historians trace the first celebration of a North American Thanksgiving to the 1578 voyage of Martin Frobisher from England in search of the Northwest Passage. The 17th century French settlers who came to Canada, then known as New France, celebrated their successful harvest, sharing food with the Indigenous peoples of the area. Most of the current aspects of the North American Thanksgiving Holiday, such as the turkey, were integrated by the United Empire Loyalists.

The provinces of Canada first declared a formal Thanksgiving Day in 1859. On Jan. 31, 1957, the Canadian Parliament declared "A Day of General Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the bountiful harvest with which Canada has been blessed—to be observed on the second Monday in October."

I have attached a few books that can be found in the library that have information on various cultures and their food.



944 FIT • A Taste of Paris – Traditional Food Period Photographs

By Theodora FITZGIBBON

971 DUN • Canadians at Table - Food, Fellowship, and Folklore: A Culinary History of Canada

By Dorothy DUNCAN

947 ECK • Food 'N Customs: Recipes of the Black Sea Germans

By Josephine Welder ECKMAN, Katherine SCHIELKE, Vi MEIDINGER

971.073 SMI • Loyalist Foods in Today's Recipes

by Eleanor Robertson Smith

THE LIBRARY IS OPEN UNTIL 8 PM on the last Tuesday of the month

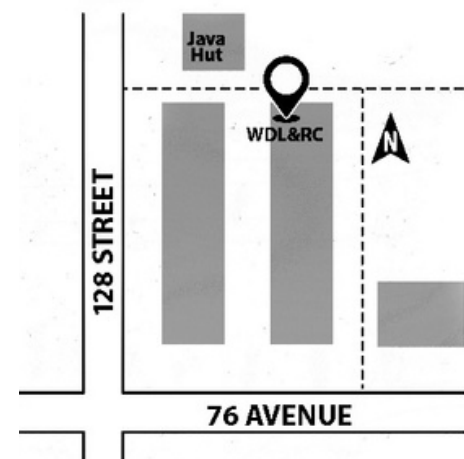
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays 10am to 3pm

User fee \$5 per day for non-members. The library is closed all holiday weekends and during extreme weather events.

Please call **604.502.9119** to confirm hours.

Unit 211, 12837 76 Ave, Surrey - No parking in fire lanes.

You must park in a designated BCGS parking stall or on the street. If in doubt, check with the library host on duty.



Welcome to the FamilySearch Library

A global network of experts, volunteers, documents, and resources that can help you discover your family.

A VISIT TO SALT LAKE CITY

ANN BUCHANAN, #5583 • BCGS LIBRARY ADMINISTRATOR

Recently, I had the pleasure to visit the FamilySearch Library in Salt Lake City. I have been there many times, but this is the first time since the pandemic. I was totally amazed at all the changes.

Although I was very happy with the library, I am surprised that all the restaurants have closed and the only food available within easy walking distance is from a vending machine. JB's beside the Plaza Hotel has been closed for over a year. The Blue Lemon has closed and moved to the airport. The Olive Garden is closed. And since the Joseph Smith Building is going to be renovated, all three of the restaurants that were in that building closed last summer. I am sure that this will be fixed. After all, the next Roots Tech can be attended in person and Salt Lake City is applying for the Olympics again.

The FamilySearch Library has been totally renovated and modernized. Everything is changed. The main floor is a Welcome Centre that encourages you to play with family history. There are cameras to take your photo and programs to help you learn about your family history. You can hear the buzz of interested people, especially young ones, as soon as you walk through the door.

The other four floors have been divided into: Floor 3 – Books for Canada & USA, Floor 2 – Films for Canada & USA, Floor B1 – Films for the rest of the world, and Floor B2 – Books for the rest of the world. Each of the workstations have 3 monitors, which can also be connected to your laptop. Many of the desks have a machine that allows you to read a book and transfer copies of pages to your laptop.

If you want the whole book scanned you could use the Scanning Room on Floor 3. On Floors 2 and B1, the ones with microfilm, readers are available at the workstations that allow you to download what you are interested in to a thumb drive or send it to a photocopier to be printed.

In the old days, when you wanted something that was stored in the “Granite Mountain”, you would have to request it to be brought into the library. This usually took 2-3 days. I ordered something on Friday and expected it to arrive Tuesday. However, on Monday, I received an email telling me the system had changed that very day! Now you get a password that is changed weekly. This password allows you to see all the copyright-protected items and the items that are stored off-site that have already been digitized. They seem to be quite close to digitizing everything.





It was great fun to go to the FamilySearch Library. The lime green decorating was uplifting. As always, the volunteers were friendly and welcoming. My research was enhanced by how much I enjoyed using the modern technology.

Clearly, the LDS Church is working towards people having world-wide access to family history through local FamilySearch Family History libraries and their affiliates. They advertise themselves as a “global network of experts, volunteers, documents, and resources that can help you discover your family.” Unless an item’s copyright restricts viewing to the FamilySearch Family History Library in Salt Lake City, it is likely to be available in an affiliate library. Even then, as FamilySearch works with the authors, in the future, items may be released from copyright enough to allow them to be viewed in affiliate libraries.



Since the BC Genealogical Society Library and Research Centre is an affiliate library, so much of what I was looking for is already available here. It was not until I was in Salt Lake City that I realized exactly how much. I enjoyed my visit as a holiday to Salt Lake City, but it will be many years before I return to do research. Since the BCGS Library is an affiliate library it gives me free access to do so much more research than I have been doing ... at home.



Upcoming 2023 and 2024 deadlines for 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 publishing date to see your article.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

| Months | Pub | Deadline | Release | Meeting |
|----------|------------|---------------|---------------|---------|
| December | E-Journal | Nov 15 | Dec 15 | Dec 13 |
| January | Newsletter | Dec 27 | Jan 8 | Jan 10 |
| February | Newsletter | Jan 30 | Feb 12 | Feb 14 |
| March | E-Journal | Feb 15 | Mar 15 | Mar 13 |

SUE SULLIVAN,

#4887 NEWSLETTER GAL

newsletter@bcgs.ca

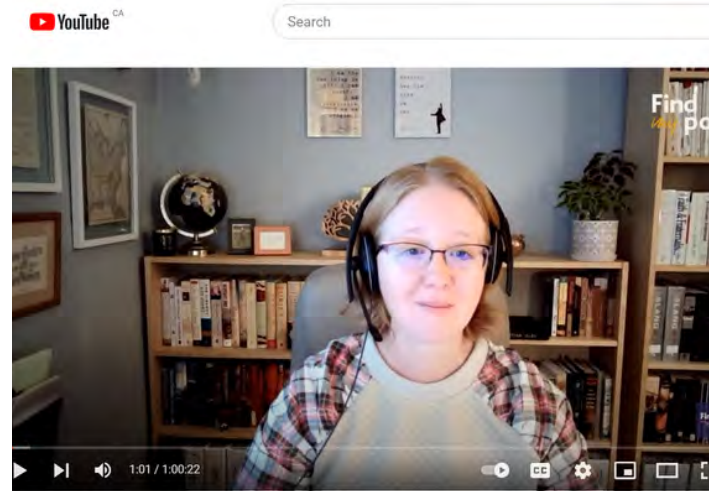
FIND MY PAST—OLD & NEW

ANN BUCHANAN, #5583 • BCGS LIBRARY ADMINISTRATOR

Recently I went to Salt Lake City, Utah, for a conference with the “British Institute”. The formal name is International Society for British Genealogy and Family History. They have been holding an annual educational conference in Salt Lake City for many years. This was the seventh conference I have attended. You can learn more about them at:

<https://isbgfh.com/>.

One of my fellow classmates was Jen Baldwin, the Data Acquisition Manager, North America at **FindMyPast**. You may have already met Jen at her weekly videos for FindMyPast on YouTube at 9:00am Mountain Time.



One evening, she gave a presentation on FindMyPast. It was amazing how much I learned. I would like to pass this information on to you.

Things I learned about the New Updated and the Old FindMyPast website.

1. ALWAYS scroll down on the landing page to learn more.
2. Findmypast.co.uk is used for testing and can sometimes look different than Findmypast.com.
3. Findmypast.co.uk uses British English spelling and Findmypast.com uses American English spelling. For example: British = colour and American = color.
4. British Newspapers Archives include newspapers from the British Commonwealth. You can click on the map if you don't know the name of your area.
5. FMP adheres to European Privacy Laws which are different than American. A person is required to “Opt-in” instead of “Opt-out”.
6. FMP Surveys say that many of their customers do not have trees elsewhere.
7. The Profile Page is changing. Look to see what is new.
8. If something is indexed by OCR it is less detailed than something that has been indexed by an outside source such as a family history society, since these have been done by humans who understand what is needed.

Searching:

1. Search all “Records” or “Record Sets”. A record will generate a blanket search but a record set works like a card catalogue.



2. Use “**Advanced Search**” if you wish to search outside of your home country. *i.e.* You want to search Ireland and you live in Canada.

3. Search screens have been designed for the specific record set being used. *i.e.* there is no box for “maiden name” in a census search, but there is in parish records.

4. There is a location search for the UK based on radius. NOT available in other countries. The location is tabulated from the center of the village or the county, etc.

5. You can now put in individual years not just a decade.
 6. You can search for an address. This will return a list of all the properties in the area you've searched for.

From there, simply select the house you're interested in, and you will be taken to the record for that property.

7. Phrase flexibility:

a. You can search a phrase up to 8 words long. You can put in negative words. "Maria Allen"~6 numbers of words away or near.
 b. Advanced Search will allow for multiple wild cards.

8. Census address tool - Street or Location. Click on street and you will get house numbers in order.

9. You can now find hyphenated words i.e. beer-house or beer house.

Viewing:

1. View Source allows you to see actual document. Right Click to open in a new tab.
2. All "blue" lettering is clickable.
3. Orange Circles mean "hints", Blue circles mean "a story", and White circles mean "add data".
4. The image is very good. It is viewed at the same resolution as the image was taken originally.
5. Citation can be found by clicking on "i".

Who

First name(s) Last name

Name variants **i** Name variants **i**

All fields are optional

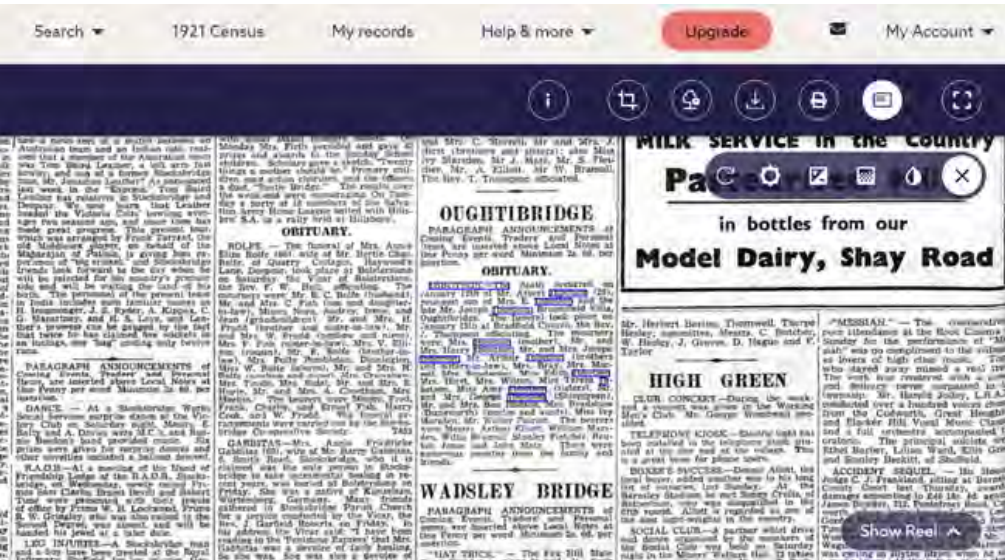
When

Year Give or take **i** Year Of Birth Give or take **i** Year Of Death

Where

Search radius (miles) **i**

Exact 5 10 20



6. You can now clip, save to tree, and download. Example at left.
7. Click top white circle to turn off search highlighter.
8. An Image in a fold can be combined into one. Example below:



History or Myth?

MEG MCLAUGHLIN, #3847 GENEALOGY BLOGGER

Did you all get your submissions in for the latest Veterans book? I was scrambling to get mine in at the last minute and ended up checking out the proofs on my phone while sitting in an airport. Good timing actually, as I had written about ancestors who fought in the American War of Independence. That meant that I'd have their stories "top of mind" when following the Revolutionary Trail in Boston, the first destination on our journey.

Boston, while not where my ancestors had lived, seemed to be the starting point for so much of the fervor that led to American's agitation for independence and I wanted to know more about the history. Unlike people brought up in the US, the history behind their revolution is not something I was taught in school. Most of what I know about the events of the long struggle for America to become a separate state rather than a British colony, came from my own reading or was packaged in a more sensational form, for TV and movies. Popular culture shapes a lot of our knowledge of past events.

The historic part of Boston was set up to cater to tourists and proved so popular that sometimes it was hard to take pictures because of all the competing walking tours. They've made it easy for people in other ways though, creating a Freedom Trail in the sidewalk that walkers can follow. It was hard to get lost, especially as one of the first things we'd done was take a walking tour so that we had the basic downtown geography down.

There are a lot of landmarks in the historic area of the city. One of them was the statue of Paul Revere on his horse. We passed that statue twice, a good thing because the second time, we actually got pictures with fewer people crowding around. The story of Paul Revere's ride is one that I remember well from hearing it when I was still in school. It's a stirring tale that embodies a lone individual's efforts to further the spirit of independence. **It's also not true.**



Paul Revere on his horse



Faneuil Hall

Paul Revere wasn't the only rider ready to give warning, although the story makes it seem that it was so. He also didn't make it to Concord to spread the word that the British were coming. He was stopped before he got there. The myth of his lone successful ride has persisted because it embodies the spirit of the American Revolution and it's such a good story. Besides, he makes a stirring symbol of the spirit of independence, on his horse posing for the tourists.

It's enough to make a researcher wary of the stories they find because that's the thing. People like to tell stories to make sense of what happened. Family stories can assume mythic proportions as they are passed down through generations. Myths usually come from some facts that were strung together so that it becomes hard to separate truth from fiction, which leads to a question for family historians. As researchers, do we debunk the myths by finding out the actual events and expose them, to separate them from the myths, or does the family myth itself reveal a truth about our family and its history, much like how the myth of Paul Revere's ride reveals the aspirations behind a nation's founding?



Frog Pond at Boston Common

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.



eJOURNAL NEWS

LYNNE FLETCHER, #5353—E-JOURNAL EDITOR

Where is Uncle Louis?

Finding an answer to this question has been the focus of my genealogical research this last month. Louis is not my uncle, but my father's uncle. I have never met him, nor did my father visit with him, or contact him when I was growing up.

He was the older brother of my grandfather, Timothy, and I suspect the reason that Timothy headed west to Alberta from St. Vallier, Quebec. My father only once spoke of Uncle Louis; he and his siblings had gone for a winter ride in Louis' sleigh, covered with a fur blanket.

I did find Uncle Louis' homestead claim in Alberta, and records of the work that he did on his property. After this period, he seems to have disappeared.

I have been searching online resources, talking to my cousins, and rechecking all old photos. So far, I know where Louis is not living, but still haven't found him.

Do you have a particular ancestor that you are searching for? Please share the story around your research and the results, or any good search tips with our members.

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

THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR AND THE SIEGE OF PARIS

JUDY ISAAC, MEMBER 5652

The Franco-Prussian War (War of 1870) was a conflict between the Second French Empire and the North German Confederation, led by the Kingdom of Prussia. The conflict lasted from July 1870 to January 1871, the result of France's determination to reassert its dominant position in continental Europe. Some historians believe that Prussian chancellor Otto von Bismarck deliberately provoked the French, then under Napoleon III's leadership, into declaring war on Prussia in order to induce four independent southern German states to join the North German Confederation.

The day after mobilizing its army, the French parliament voted to declare war on Prussia on July 16th, 1870. France invaded German territory on the 2nd of August. Two days later, the German coalition retaliated by invading northeastern France. They were superior in numbers, training and leadership, and better able to use modern technology, particularly railways and artillery.

A series of hard-fought Prussian and German victories, which took place in eastern France, resulted in the capture of the French Emperor Napoleon III. It was a decisive defeat of the army of the Second Empire; a Government of National Defense was formed in Paris on September 4th, continuing the war. German forces defeated the new French armies in northern France, then besieged Paris for over four months.

The French had anticipated a brief siege of Paris, stockpiling enough food for 80 days. Food began to run out and prices soared on the black market. The civilian population was soon starving. The only means of communication to the rest of France was by hot air balloon.

The surrender of Paris on January 28th, 1871 effectively ended the war. It significantly altered the balance of power on the continent. Imperial rule in France was brought to a final end. The creation of a unified German Empire established Germany as the major power in

continental Europe. Prussian King Wilhelm I and Chancellor Bismarck were proclaimed leaders of this new empire in a ceremony which took place at the Palace of Versailles.

Despite the signing of the original treaty ending the war, Prussian troops lingered outside Paris. This angered Parisians, and with further resentment arising against the French Government, March 1871 saw students, workers and members of the National Guard rebel and establish the Paris Commune. A radical socialist government, it lasted through late May of that year. During its final days, the Commune executed the Archbishop of Paris along with one hundred hostages, mostly gendarmes and priests.

Days after signing the final Treaty of Frankfurt, the national French Army broke through into Paris on May 21st, killing an estimated 10,000 to 20,000 Communards. Another forty-three thousand were taken as prisoner and 6,500 to 7,500 fled in self-exile.

Although the Prussians did maintain a presence in northeastern France until 1873, it wasn't until the end of August 1871 that the situation in Paris stabilized enough for the Prussian army to start withdrawing their troops from outside the city.

One of the treasures in my maternal family is a series of letters which I now have in my possession. My great grandfather William Dagnall had received correspondence during the Franco-Prussian war and the Siege of Paris from two of his friends. One friend, Max Vieweger, was writing to my great grandfather while stationed outside Paris during the siege and the other friend, Frédéric Billois was writing to my great grandfather William and his cousin Walter while defending Paris from within. Having a Prussian and a Frenchman on opposing sides of a conflict corresponding with you would certainly give it a unique perspective!

The Letters and transcriptions are captured in the following pages.

5 LETTERS FROM F BILLOIS

JUDY ISAAC, MEMBER 5652 at **Paris** Sep 14, 1870, Feb 14, 1871, Mar 28, 1871, Apr 20, 1871, and June 2, 1871

Paris, the 14th September 1870

Dear Willie,
Only two words, for thanking you for your very kind letter that I received, this morning. We are expecting in seeing Prussians, very soon, we are ready to receive them. I, fear, but a thing, that is, powder and bullets be not sufficient. We have, all the same idea, to do our duty.

I remain yours affectionately, F. Billois

Remember me to your family and to M. Houghton & family

F. Billois at Mt. Flaud 40 Avenue de Suffren Paris the 14th February 1871

My dear Willie,
This day, I am in receipt of your favour of the 31st January ultimo. I am very gratefully of your remembrance and I send you my best sincerely thanks. I shall not write you longer for this time, for we are in expecting what our "Assemblée Nationale" will decide. Very likely we will have Peace although that is not very honourable, but for the present being not the strongest, we must accept the willing of the Prussians. But also, what I dare to say, that if the Prussians are too much difficult for the Treatise, that is, the war shall recommence in some years. (When in our side we shall be ready, and then we shall show, how French people is capable when he is not solo.) Excuse me to be so short, and believing me

always yours, Very sincerely, F. Billois

My thanks returned to your family for their kind remembrances and I beg for you to remember me to Mrs. Houghton's family. Be kind enough to tell me in your next letter: By Walter Dagnall, school boy from Manor House, if Bergman a French gentleman is always in London. You can say to Mr. Houghton that Gustave Baudot is in good health. If you like to spend some moments, write to me, you shall give me very much pleasure. Do not pay attentions to my English, having not any opportunity, I do recollect only a few words.

F. Billois at Mt. Flaud 40 Avenue de Suffren Paris the 28th March 1871

My dear Walter
I beg Willie to be kind enough to give to you these few words. I shall tell you that I have received in good time your last letter, and that I was so much pre-occupied by the disturbances in our city, that I have not found time to answer it sooner. To-day Paris appears more quiet, but we must take care with the

disorder now. Pray, tell Willie to lent you the tariff, of foods during the Siege of Paris, that, I have sent to him in order to see how dear were the foods. We are expecting in the Events. In awaiting the pleasure in reading you.

I beg you to believe me your sincere friend. F. Billois

Remember me kindly to your family and also to your uncle who went up the balloon very often

To Walter Dagnall Esq. Beaufort St. Chelsea

Fred. Billois at Mt. Flaud 40 Avenue de Suffren Paris, the 20th April 1871

My Dear Willie,
Many thanks for your very kind letter dated from the 12th ultimo, and which I received only on the 19th (instead). You can see by newspaper that "Paris", a large city, is not an ordinary thing to govern. The French people is generally a politic one; and each large town contains some men who are named "rouge", because they like to live amidst a revolution. Our mind is very light, and very often we regret what we have done. I heard that in London the "International Society" tries to make a revolution in order to have a republic government; but I think it is more difficult to establish it, than in France. For the English People is not very fond with disorder. Let us expect the Events.

In awaiting the pleasure in reading you again I remain, Yours sincerely, F. Billois

My kind regards to your family & to Houghton's family & Uncle. Excuse my English style.

F. Billois at Mt Flaud 40 Avenue de Suffren Paris, the 2nd June 1871

To Walter Dagnall Esquire

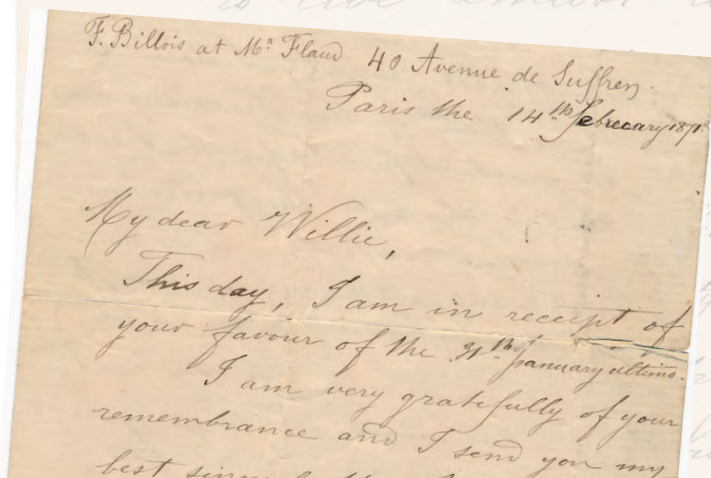
My dear Walter

I am just receiving your honoured of the 26th May, ultimo; I send you my thanks for it. Be my interpreter to your family, to tell that I send them my best compliments. Very likely, you have reads in your newspaper that on the 17th May, an explosion of cartridges take place in Paris; but what you do not know, that is, we have suffered with that explosion, for we live by the side of the manufactory. The glass windows, the doors of our apartment have been broken and send away. In the dining-room all the glass-wine, the porcelain and many things were reduced in powder. All curtains has been torn, the bedrooms were spoiled very much. We have been very afraid, but fortunately no one at home has been wounded. Four days after that accident, the 21st May, in the night, the French army made its Entry in Paris. Last week was employed to fight le Insurgés the reds. A great deal of the Insurgés were made prisoners and they are going to expiate their crimes. Some of our monuments have been burned the most remarkable & oldest one is l'Hôtel de Ville, which was so beautiful by the sculpture. Paris deserves to be seen, just now, to show the World what destruction makes a revolution. The gates of the fortifications are still shuted, for the Government fears that some of the criminals may be escaped. For the moment we are very quiet, but a rather sad, seeing our situation.

We have to work very much in order to pay (repair?) all our destructions. Let us hope that business shall come as before.

I remain, Dear Walter, Yours sincerely F. Billois

I beg you to give to Willie the enclosed letter.
Do not pay attention to my English style S.V.P



6 LETTERS FROM MAX VIEWEGER

JUDY ISAAC, MEMBER 5652

Féricy Apr 17, 1870, May 3, 1871, May 8, 1871

Margency July 8, 1871, Aug 7, 1871 **Fort d'Aubervilliers** Aug 27, 1871

Féricy April 17th 1871

Dear Dagnall

Accept my best thanks for your letter of the 12th inst. and papers which I received yesterday and today. If it be interesting to you, I will give you a small account of "the history of my life". Perhaps you will remember, that, when in London in 1865, I accepted a situation in Newcastle upon Tyne. As that place did not exactly suit my wishes, I left it after 6 months, went to Dunkirk (in France) from there to Paris and from there after two months stay to Le Havre. Not being able to find what I wanted in France, I left Le Havre for Bremen, via Hamburg and here in Bremen I took it into my head to emigrate to the United States of America. Consequently I landed one fine day in the Capitol of Cotton, New Orleans! Here I found the climate rather a little too hot for my constitution, left for St. Louis, on the upper Mississippi, thence to Cincinnati, Louisville, Pittsburgh, Baltimore, Philadelphia, New York. In New York I stayed about a year, left again for Pittsburgh, Cincinnati, St. Louis, Chicago, Milwaukee, from there back to St. Louis in the State of Missouri, in which latter place being tired of travelling, I settled down, took a situation, stayed there about two years, until finally the war broke out between Germany and France. Thinking it my duty to help defending my native land, I left St. Louis, crossed once more the Ocean and enlisted in the Prussian army. All in all I stayed in the U.S. pretty near 5 years. Included you will find 1 Thaler, which please do spend in postage and such Newspapers, which write the most about our war (either friendly or unfriendly).

Hoping that you will continue our mutual Correspondence and excuse the trouble, which I am causing you.

I am Sir, Your friend, Max Vieweger

6th Compagnie, 51st Regiment, 11th Division, 6th Armee Corps, France Place of destination not necessary

Féricy May 3rd 71

My dear Sir!

I am indeed very much obliged to you for the Newspapers, that you are sending me every now and then and hope you will continue, to do so, as I am one of the unfortunate Prussians, that are forced to go to the Province of Champagne to wait there, until our three Millions will be paid. Your Letters and Newspapers will reach me under the old address but write instead of Féricy, France.

After I will have reached our place of destination, I will write you a long letter and hope to one from you meanwhile.

I am Your friend, Max Vieweger

6th Compagnie, 51st Regiment, 11th Division, 6th Armee Corps
Frankreich

Féricy May 8th 71

Dear Sir!

On the 17th of April I sent you a letter in which I included One Prussian Thaler (for Postage & Newspapers)! I am very much obliged to you for the "Daily News" which I am receiving every now & then. We are still in the old positions. We can hear every day the thunder of cannons from the direction of Paris. Will these fools never become sober? I would not cry, if they would break their necks, every one of them, but the worst of it is, that we are kept here just on account of their troubles! If they were peacefull, we might be at home long ago! It is horribly tiresome here! When I receive a newspaper from you, I snatch at it like a starving man will snatch at a piece of bread. I hope you will continue sending papers (perhaps a London Punch every now & then).

I am Yours truly, Max Vieweger

6th Compagnie, 51st Regiment, 11th Division, 6th Armee Corps,
France (not Féricy)

Margency July 8th 1871

Dear Dagnall

I received in good time your letter of the 30th May, but until now I did not find time to answer it. We are still in the neighborhood of Paris, and God knows how long this is going to last. I am sick and tired of staying here any longer and so is every one of us! But what are we to do? A few weeks ago I was several times in Paris, of course in disguise, because I think, they would eat a fellow up, should he go into their holy city as Prussian soldier. I amused myself tolerably well there, I dare say, saw all the buildings and streets which the commune had destroyed and which I had seen burning and smoking at a distance. Your papers I am receiving almost daily. Now I can only thank you, for your kindness, but I hope, that sooner or later you will give me an occasion, to render you a service.

Yours sincerely, Max Vieweger

Margency, Aug. 7th 1871

Dear Sir!

I hope you are in possession of my letter of July. I am still receiving your "Daily News" and I am much obliged to you for them. About two months ago I made you acquainted with a French merchant, Dréau in Féricy. He wanted to buy glass for windows. As a few days after, my Regiment left that place I did not hear, what has become of that affaire! It is horrible, they are keeping us here so long. The worst of it is, we don't even know why they keep us here. The French Newspapers say, that the money necessary for the evacuation of French territory has arrived in Berlin. If such is the fact why in hell don't they send us home. I tell you, my dear friend, it is no pleasure to be laying up here, idling away your time, to the annoyance of yourself and all the peacefull population around Paris! I hear there are a great many visitors from England in Paris. Could you not also make an excursion to the French Capitol, and from there make a trip to St. Denis, in which place you would find no difficulty, to inquire where the 6th Comp. of the 51 Regt. Is laying? Is Mr. Hendewerk still in Correspondence with Alex Gibsane, Danzig? I hope you will soon favor me with a letter.

I am Your friend, Max Vieweger

Fort d'Aubervilliers Aug 27th 1871

My dear Dagnall

Do not send any more newspapers; I am getting my discharge tomorrow.

Your friend, Max Vieweger

Fort d'Aubervilliers
Aug. 27^e 1871.
My dear Dagnall
Do not send any more
newspapers; I am getting
my discharge tomorrow
Your friend
Max Vieweger

A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT BETWEEN ALLIES

JUDY ISAAC, MEMBER 5652

In the decades following World War I, Americans had become wary of involving themselves in another costly international conflict. After Germany had invaded Poland in 1939 and full-scale war broke out again in Europe, Congress passed the Neutrality Act of 1939. Before the Neutrality Act came into law, President Franklin D. Roosevelt persuaded Congress to allow the sale of military supplies to allies like France and Britain on a “cash-and-carry” basis: They had to pay cash for American-made supplies, then transport the supplies on their own ships.

But by the summer of 1940, France and much of northern Europe had fallen to the Nazis. Britain was fighting virtually alone against Germany on land, at sea and in the air. The new British Prime Minister Winston Churchill appealed personally to Roosevelt for help. Churchill warned Roosevelt that Britain would not be able to pay cash for military supplies or shipping much longer. Recently re-elected on a platform promising to keep America out of World War II, Roosevelt still wanted to support Great Britain against Germany.

In December 1940, Roosevelt introduced a new policy initiative whereby the United States would lend, rather than sell, military supplies to Great Britain for use in their fight. The Lend-Lease Policy, as Roosevelt’s plan became known, ran into strong opposition, but Roosevelt’s administration and supporters in Congress were able to argue convincingly that providing aid to allies like Great Britain was a military necessity for the United States. The Lend-Lease Act: An Act to Promote the Defense of the United States was finally passed in March 1941. By the end of 1941, the lend-lease policy was extended to include other US allies.

The supplies dispersed under the Lend-Lease Act ranged from military materials such as tanks, aircraft, ships, weapons and road-building supplies to clothing, chemicals and food. By the end of World War II a total of \$50 billion in aid was provided to more than 30 nations around the globe, from the Free French movement, the Republic of China and the governments-in-exile of Poland, the Netherlands and Norway to Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Paraguay and Peru. After some initial hesitation, the Soviets signed the final Lend-Lease agreement in June 1942.

The Soviet Union’s mission was to help establish an air route and airfields in areas where no humans had ever set foot. It was particularly treacherous, with strong, Arctic winds that blew over vast tracts of tundra. Once accomplished, the Soviet portion of the Alaska-Siberian Air Road (ALSIB), part of the Northwest Staging Route, would connect Great Falls, Montana to Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

The ALSIB and Northwest Staging Route also acted as a diplomatic route between Washington, DC and Moscow. Diplomats, high-ranking politicians and many government officials were ferried back and forth during the war.

By the end of the war, almost eight thousand warplanes were secretly ferried from Montana, through western Canada, to their final destination in Russia for combat service on the Eastern Front. That part of the project would become known as the Warplanes to Siberia Project.



BE COUNTED

2025



CANADA WIDE RESEARCH
Spread the word! the "Be Counted" project has begun! Our Research Team is looking for past and present Veterans who were Canadian Citizens at the time of enlistment who served with the U.S. Military from 1959-1975.

Canadian Vietnam Veteran?

- Do you have a descendant or someone you know that served during the Vietnam War Era from 1959 to 1975?
- Were they a Canadian Citizen at the time of enlistment?

If you said yes to both of these questions then they qualify for this project.

In January 2023 the "Be Counted" project was launched in Windsor, Ontario. The goal of this project is to not only document each person following the Genealogical Proof Standard in our research, but to also ensure that these Veterans are properly Welcomed Home in Windsor, Ontario 2025.

RESEARCH QUESTION:

How many Canadian Citizens enlisted in the U.S. Military from 1959 to 1975?

No government knows this number. It is guesstimated that 40,000 Canadians enlisted, and finding direct evidence to support this question is challenging based on the timelines, confidentiality laws in the United States and Canada as well as Stolen Valour. There is much indirect evidence available, however based on these challenges stated research will require direct evidence following the GPS.



In 1995 the Canadian Vietnam Veterans memorial was erected by two American Veterans with the land given by the City of Windsor. It identifies KIA and MIA soldiers having a direct connection to Canada.

Research Team: C.J. Scott, member of Essex OGS, OAPG, CVVMA, WVMSC, and Keith Tracy, U.S. Veteran 1964-1966, member of CVVMA

Contact: CJ Scott - cjscott.cangen@gmail.com, 519-259-7555

Registration: Online or by Email

Introducing Yvette Howard #5770

MEET THE MEMBER

SUE SULLIVAN, #4887 NEWSLETTER GAL

Yvette, has always struck me as the quiet underdog. She is always pleasant, listening and putting forth a positive, firm reflection of whatever the topic of conversation is. She also has a brilliant laugh! You may not know it yet—she is running for the position of our next President.



ABOUT YOU

Career/Profession: I've had many different jobs over the years as I enjoy trying new things: Children's program director, Educational Assistant, Stay-at-Home mom, Accounts Payable, Inside Sales, Guest Services at my local cultural centre... Currently 'retired' and a student of the International Institute for Genealogical Studies.

Partner: (Gen or Non-gen?) Glenn – non gen (but I convinced him to become an Associate BCGS member!)

Special skills, interests & hobbies: Music (sing, play guitar, piano, flute), crafting, RVing, gardening, reading, travel.

ABOUT YOUR RESEARCH—

How old were you when you started/became interested in family history? I have always been interested, although my family says I'm just nosy! I have a genuine curiosity in my roots and asked my parents and grandparents lots of genealogy-type questions growing up.

Why did you start researching? I had a DNA test done, and while waiting for the results started working on my family tree. This was in 2017.

What surnames do you research?

My family: Visscher, Roseboom, Henzen, Bom.

My husband's family: Howard, Flaxman, Timmer, Zacharias, Presley, Forsyth, Roscoe, Harding, Brine, Bottrell, Boughton.

Which branch of your tree is your favourite and why?

I don't have a particular favourite. However, I am intrigued by my Opa (grandfather), Piet Visscher. I am of Dutch heritage and most of my ancestors lived their whole lives in the same small town as they were born. My Opa (grandfather) was different from this and had an adventurous spirit. He traveled extensively throughout the Netherlands from the time he was 14 until his late 20s. There was a flour windmill (korenmolen) in his hometown of Waardenburg and it must've caught his interest as a young boy, because everywhere he worked during those years while he traveled was at different windmills. He met my Oma in Zuid-Holland and after they married, they moved back to his hometown where he rented and operated the local windmill. Later they immigrated to Canada for another 'adventure'.

What geographic areas do you research?

My own: Provinces of Gelderland, Zuid-Holland and Utrecht in the Netherlands; **My husband's:** Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario; England: Kent, Dorset; Netherlands: Noord-Holland.

What have been your biggest breakthroughs?

One of my husband's grandfathers turned out to have been widowed twice and then married a third time and all of his wives had the same first name of Mary! I was really confused by the children's birth records because their mother's surnames were not consistent and at the time I only had the death record for the last wife. I eventually found all the marriage and death records for each woman and finally it made sense.

Which is your most stubborn Ancestor?

John Roscoe. I cannot tie him confidently back to England. Many trees online have identified him as John Lyman Roscoe, but I can't find evidence of this middle name ever being used. His birth date is given on the 1901 Canadian census as 15 Aug 1826 in England. He died on 19 Oct 1907 in York, Ontario. He was married to Jane Belford/Belfor who was from Ireland. I cannot connect her back to Ireland either.

ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BCGS—

When did you join the BCGS? In 2018 I attended the conference held by Qualicum Beach Genealogical Society and met some friendly people from the BCGS who were at the table next to me. I joined in 2020.

What did you like best about volunteering? Connecting with others who have similar interests, and working on projects that will ultimately help others discover more about their ancestors in British Columbia.

Do you or have you ever used our Library? Yes! I love our library! I enjoy researching at the library simply for the access to the wonderful collection on our shelves, but also the FamilySearch affiliate status we have so I can view the records I can't see at home. I always have a list going so that I can do look ups when I come in.

Did you experience any great discoveries at the library? I was able to view a journal that had a write up about my husband's family from London, Ontario. I found a reference to the journal article online, checked the BCGS library catalogue via the website and saw that the volume was on our shelves. I made the trip to the library and found a wonderful story to add to the family history. This was an article written in the 1970s!



2023 BCGS MEMBERS HONOUR ROLL

Please take a moment to fill in some quick questions at the BCGS website.

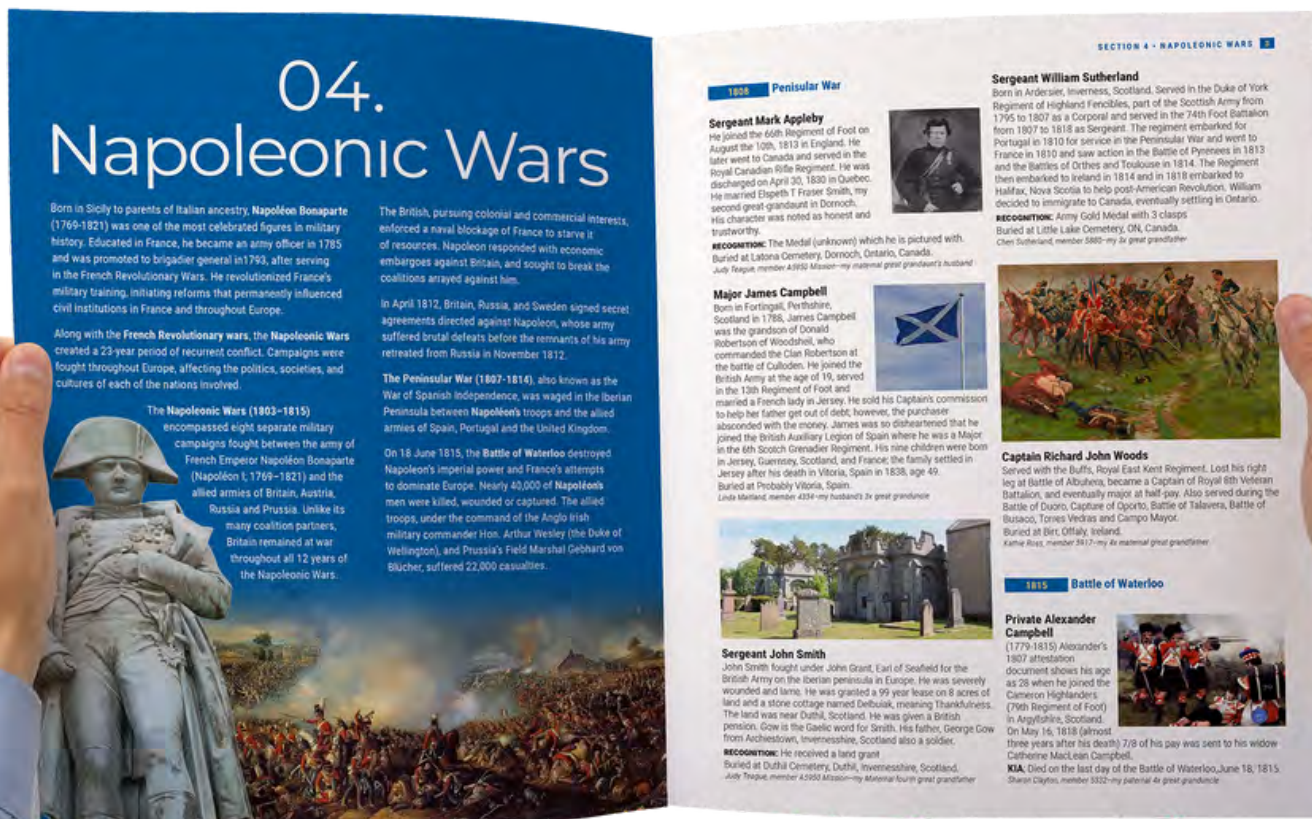
1. Go to <https://www.bcgs.ca/honour-roll-2023-edition> and send some feedback about what you loved, hated or experienced looking for your vets.
2. Think about whether you are interested in **purchasing** a printed book. Once we know the pricing a pre-order situation will occur.

The First Draft of the complete book will be available by November 11th.

It is very important to take a look and review your 'Veterans'. Please send all your **urgent changes** to veterans@bcgs.ca. These changes will be **REQUIRED** by December 1st for the **FINAL PUBLICATION** (before printing). Pre-ordering will be available through the website.

Gift cards will be available for Gifting this Holiday season.

Here is a teaser of what is soon to come.





LEST WE FORGET

UELAC Vancouver Branch members and friends will gather at the South Burnaby Cenotaph on November 11th.

Our Branch President will lay our wreath.

Where do you live?

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

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

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



PACIFIC REGION



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

THIS “EASY TO CONTRIBUTE” FUNDRAISER CONTINUES

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

Your contributions have kept 9,357 containers in 161 bags out of landfills.

**Total \$
raised
for 2023:
\$1008.10**



Bill stopped collecting bottles twice a week last December. This is the first year that only individual members as a whole have been responsible for all the donations to our Return-It account. A big thank you to all our members, all over BC that are supporting the BCGS.



SURREY LIBRARIES WORKSHOPS

**REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
FAMILYHISTORY@SURREY.CA**

FAMILY HISTORY DNA CHAT

FRI NOV 10 & DEC 8 | 2:30PM – 3:30PM | CLOVERDALE BRANCH

Join us to discuss using DNA for your family history research. An opportunity to learn from others and share resources and experiences. All levels welcome. **FREE.**



IN PERSON
EVENT

FUN FAMILY HISTORY FRIDAY

FRI NOV 24 & DEC 22 | 2:30PM – 3:30PM | CLOVERDALE BRANCH

Join us for some lively, open family history discussions in roundtable format. We will discuss up and coming family history programs. Find out what's new in our family history databases. **FREE.**



IN PERSON
EVENT

GENEALOGY ORIENTATION

SATURDAY NOV 25 | 10:30-11:30AM | CLOVERDALE BRANCH

Get Started! Learn to use one of the largest collections of family history materials in western Canada. This orientation to our department will introduce you to our online resources, books, journals, and microfilm records to assist you with your family history research. **FREE.**



IN PERSON
EVENT

CARING FOR YOUR FAMILY TREASURES

SATURDAY DEC 2 | 11AM - NOON | CLOVERDALE BRANCH

Join Surrey Archives and Artifact Collections staff to learn how we care for Surrey's historical items and how that can be applied to your family treasures at home. Share stories and swap tips on caring for your old photos, documents, papers, textiles, and more. **FREE.**





IN PERSON
EVENT

Remember, you are more than welcome to come into our department and use our resources anytime. We are open 7 days per week. We offer email reference and look-up services for your research questions.

SURREY LIBRARIES, Cloverdale Branch— Family History Department

5642 – 176A Street, Surrey, BC, Canada V3S 4G9 • 604.598.7328 | www.surreylibraries.ca

| Sunday–Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|---|
|  NEWSLETTER RELEASE  Monday Nov 6 Introductory DNA Chat at 1pm  The War of 1812: Essential Sources |  8 Meeting 7pm |  9 Scotland Genealogy Chat 7pm |  10 Family History DNA Chat 2:30pm |  REMEMBRANCE DAY |
|  Begin With Books at the Library – Sunday 12 November 9am-3:30pm |  15 WED 15-EJOURNAL DEADLINE |  16 Scandinavia Chat 7pm |  17 |  18 Kindertech at the Library 10am |
|  FAMILY TREE MAKER Monday Chat 3pm  Tuesday Nov 21 Advanced DNA Chat at 7pm |  22 |  23 United States Chat 7pm |  24 Fun Family History Fri 2:30pm |  25 Digitizing your Family History at the BCGS Library 10:30am |
|  Indigenous Roots Tuesday Chat 10:30am Writers Group Chat Tuesday 6-7:30pm Library open from 10am -8pm |  29 |  30 England Chat 7pm |  1 |  2 Caring for your Family Treasures 11am |
| DECEMBER  Monday Dec 4 Introductory DNA Chat at 1pm |  6 |  7 Ireland Chat 7pm |  8 Family History DNA Chat 2:30pm |  9 |
| <div style="background-color: red; color: white; padding: 5px;"> <p>Do you have bottles, cans or milk containers for recycling? Use account 604-502-9119 to get your labels when dropping off at any Recycle-it Depot in BC. The Library appreciates it!</p> </div>  NEWSLETTER RELEASE |  13 Meeting 7pm |  14 Scotland Genealogy Chat 7pm |  15 WED 15-EJOURNAL RELEASE |  16 Kindertech at the Library 10am |
|  FAMILY TREE MAKER Monday Chat 3pm |  20 |  21 |  22 Fun Family History Fri 2:30pm |  23 |
|  |  27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE |  28 |  29 |  30 |

 = Online Zoom meeting
 = In-Person Meeting

Zoom Coffee Chats



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.

The previous page (Calendar) includes IN-PERSON BCGS Events!



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

INTRO TO DNA COFFEE CHAT

Monday, Nov 6/Dec 4, 1 to 3 pm

With Christene Hoffert

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



INDIGENOUS COFFEE CHAT

Tuesday, Nov 28, 10:30am to Noon

With Aboriginal Genealogy Association

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



SCOTLAND COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, Nov 9/Dec 14, 7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson & Lorraine Irving

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ENGLAND COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, Nov 30, 7 to 9 pm

With Sandy Cunliffe

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



SCANDINAVIA COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, Nov 16, 7 to 9 pm

With Kathie Ross

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



IRELAND COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, Dec 7, 7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



FAMILY TREE MAKER COFFEE CHAT

Monday, Nov 20/Dec 18, 3 to 4:30 pm

With Janet White & Sharon Syrette

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ADVANCED DNA COFFEE CHAT

Tuesday, Nov 21, 7 to 9 pm

With Terry Hartley, Jim & Kathleen Graham

RSVP terrhart1@gmail.com



UNITED STATES COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, Nov 23, 7 to 9 pm

With Celia Lewis

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca

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