

THE BCGS NEWS

NOVEMBER 2022
VOL 7 | ISN 10



NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY—NOVEMBER 9TH, 7:30PM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Kelly Cadieux, Burnaby #5943
Sara Hanaback, Fort Nelson #5948
Megan Koepsell, Colorado #5944
Jan Kingston, Langley #5945
William Kuhnke, Saanich #5946
Patricia Nicklin, Port Alberni #5947
Jeannie Vance, Surrey #5949

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BCGS FALL SEMINAR

Karen Inkster Vance

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June Gauntley

LIBRARY CORNER

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FROM THE MEMBERS

Sharon Syrette
Marian Wight
Linda Yip
Meg McLaughlin
Linda Maitland

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Memories
UELAC News

WORKSHOPS AROUND US

What's Online
Surrey Library In-Person
ENGLISH webinars



FROM THE PRESIDENT

EUNICE ROBINSON #112, PRESIDENT@BCGS.CA

I want to remind our members that the deadline for submitting an entry for The Most Improved Genealogy Contest is the end of November. Have you revamped your filing system, tracked down an elusive relative, written up the story of an ancestor/relative, scanned and named your photos, or any other project that significantly improved your family history? Send your entries to me at eunice@genbug.ca. Winners will be announced at the December meeting. All the entries will be printed in future BCGS journals. If you have any questions about the contest, don't hesitate to send me an email.

Over these past few weeks, I've been reviewing several of my family history chapters - finding additional bits and pieces to add to my stories. Many years ago, I went to Ocean View Cemetery in Burnaby, and took photos of my husband's grandparents' memorials. Quite by chance, while searching Find-a-Grave, there they were—a much nicer photo than mine accompanied the entry—I hadn't thought to check. I updated the missing information, requested that the memorial be transferred to me (which it very kindly was), and added a photo to each. It definitely pays to revisit our previous work. New information is being digitized and new sources are becoming available. Who knows what gems you will find?

November marks the beginning of our Membership Renewal Program. We hope that all of you will renew your memberships and continue to support the BCGS. And if you feel the urge to volunteer, we'd love to talk to you.

**I hope to see you at our November 9th Members' Meeting.
Colin MacGregor Stevens #5088 will be presenting.**

If you have a short story about one of your military relatives or ancestors for our November Members' Moments, please let me know by email president@bcgs.ca



**COFFEE
CHATS**

MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH.

A Zoom invitation to the BCGS Members Meeting will be sent to members, so watch **your** 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.



REGISTER HERE



Karen Inkster Vance, MA, has more than 30 years' experience researching, writing and publishing her family stories. She loves to share what she has learned and help others turn their research into writing.

Karen teaches workplace communication courses at a local university. For more information about her current projects, visit: FamilyStoryStudio.com

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022

"OPEN CHAT" AT 9:30 AM, SEMINAR 10 TO 12:30

**FROM RESEARCHER TO WRITER (PART II):
WRITING YOUR ANCESTOR'S STORY**

You've compiled years' worth of charts, folders, files and binders. But what will happen to them after you're gone? Now is the time to shape your ancestral research into compelling family stories. By the end of the session, you will be able to: portray your ancestor as a real person, identify a theme, and tell your ancestor's story using creative non-fiction techniques.

ON THE COVER



**Bény-sur-Mer Canadian War Cemetery,
Normandy, France
Sacrifice at Juno Beach, June 6, 1944**

14,000 young Canadians, 3,000 in the first wave, stormed the 6-mile Juno Beach. Out of almost 1000 casualties, 340 died that day, 574 were wounded, and 47 were captured. Coming from a country of only 11 million people at that time, they gave Canadians reason to be very proud. This is what a British historian stated concerning the 3rd Canadian Division on D-Day: *"At the end of the day, its forward elements stood deeper into France than any other division. The opposition the Canadians faced was stronger than that of any other division save Omaha. That was an accomplishment in which the whole nation could take considerable pride."*

JUNE GAUNTLEY #5112



Member **Donalda James #3070** passed away **October 22, 2022.**

She has been a member since 1990, and published many articles in the eJournals and newsletters.

The BCGS extends sympathies and condolences to her husband Ullrich and her family.



GENEALOGY GEMS & ODDITIES

FROM THE BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

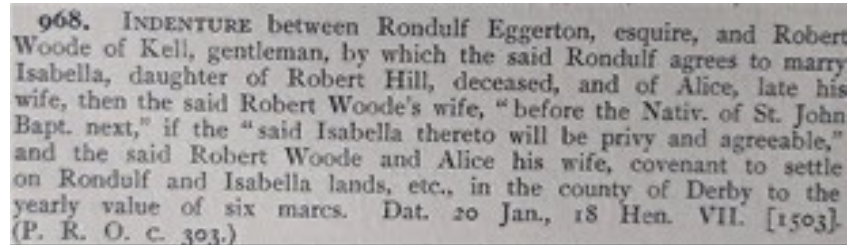
CELIA LEWIS #5183

Descriptive Catalogue of DERBYSHIRE CHARTERS [ancient deeds] R 942.51 JEA

If you have ancestors in DERBYSHIRE that you have tracked down to the 16th Century you will be thrilled to work your way through this marvellous catalogue. 2,787 Charters - abstracted - are listed by Place first, and then in order by year. The earliest charter here is one to Calk Abbey, circ. 1129-1139. Nothing after 1550 is included in this book. Check Wikipedia for historical information about the governing city, Derby.

When reading the charters, you will find that a careful reading of the Explanation of the References is necessary to truly understand the meanings. As Latin was being used quite often, come to our library and pick out a Latin book from our bookshelves for assistance. In general, with a few good Latin words in a list, plus checking out the meanings of other somewhat archaic words, you will be able to skim through these charters to find the purpose of each charter. The FamilySearch.org Wiki is a good resource for Latin words; also any library or second-hand bookstore should have a small Latin-English dictionary.

Here's one example from 1503:



Welcome to the LIBRARY!
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays
10am to 3pm.

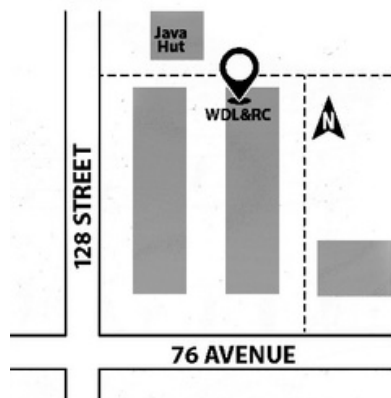
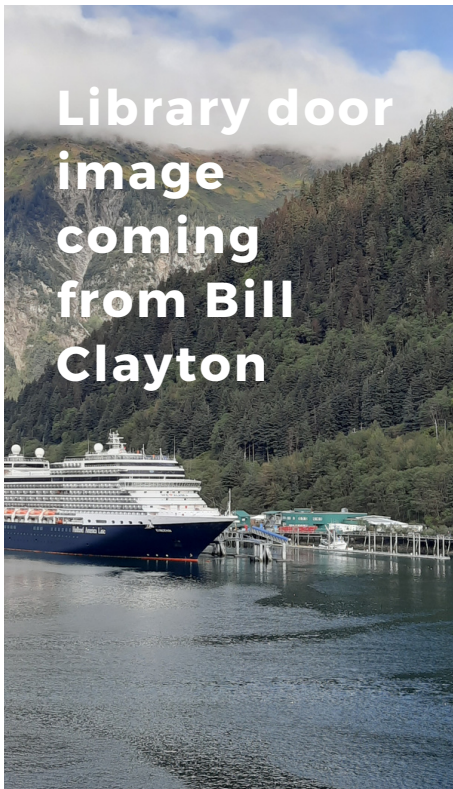
\$5 per day for non-members
 The library is closed all holiday weekends and if there is extreme weather. Please call to confirm hours **604.502.9119.**

Unit 211, 12837 - 76 Avenue, Surrey

There is no parking in the fire lanes. You must park in a designated BCGS parking stall or on the street. Check with the library assistant on duty if in doubt.

There are four substantial Indexes: Places, Names, Matters and Owners and Sources of Charters. The latter is important as the Compiler, Isaac Jeayes, used 34 different original sources to compile this Catalogue of Charters (deeds and related financial matters).

This book is a gold mine of information, but does take some reference material to help you pick out all the references and medieval words for lands, relationships and so on. Well worth the effort!



Articles, photos, illustrations and images have been submitted by the writers. 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 family history – genealogy and/or genetic genealogy.

BCGS Newsletter Team newsletter@bcgs.ca,
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Pub Review Team: Margaret Sharon, Sherry King,
 Jo-Ann Blomquist, Sally Funk.

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

Submission Deadline for Decembers newsletter is November 19th.

Email newsletter@bcgs.ca

We can help with copyright free images.



NEEDED— A BC RESEARCH TEAM COORDINATOR

There comes a time when a person has done a job for long enough and wants to step down to allow for new blood. This is that time for me. BCGS has had many great new members in the past few years that I plan to step aside and invite someone else to have the sense of accomplishment that I have had with this volunteer position.



The BCGS Library needs **Volunteers for various shifts**. If you have time to volunteer on a Tuesday, Thursday or Saturday, even for one 2.5 hour shift, we can use your help.

For more information, email library@bcgs.ca

There are only about 6-10 queries each month from all over the world. Some of them are simple like;

- Where can I find an obituary?
- Do you have any information on this accident in Northern BC?

Others have adventure attached to them;

- In one case, an Australian man found some military dog tags in his father's personal affects and wanted to return them to the family of the soldier that they belonged to.
- A lady found in her sister's personal affects, a drawing done by a young man that had died in Vancouver General Hospital 30 years before. She wanted to return the drawing to his family. In both cases BC Research was able to help.

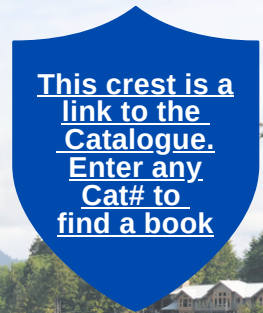
As a coordinator you would receive the queries and review them to see who the best person would be to handle the request. Most of the time it would be yourself but sometimes you would need to draw on our members for expertise such as military, Indigenous, French language, and local history.

If you would like more information on what this position is all about, feel free to contact me, **Ann Buchanan**, ibbotsonab@gmail.com.

BETWEEN THE STACKS

CORRINE JUBB, #5215 BCGS LIBRARY ADMINISTRATOR

These books are about four Vancouver Island communities located between Port Hardy and Victoria.



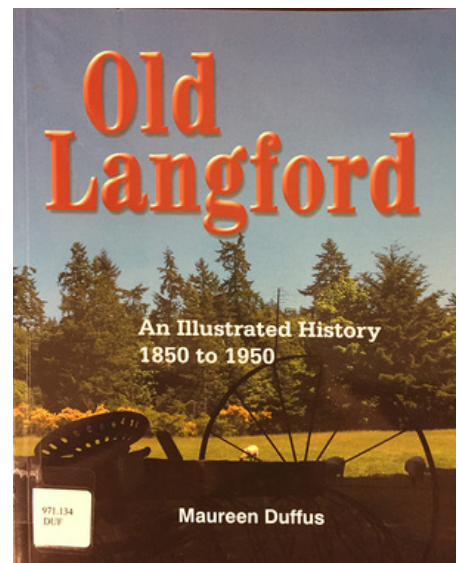
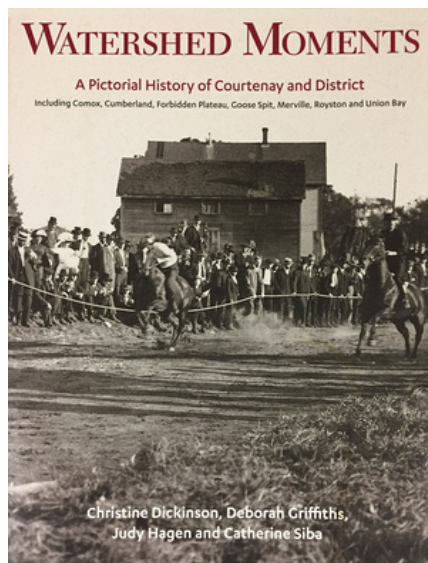
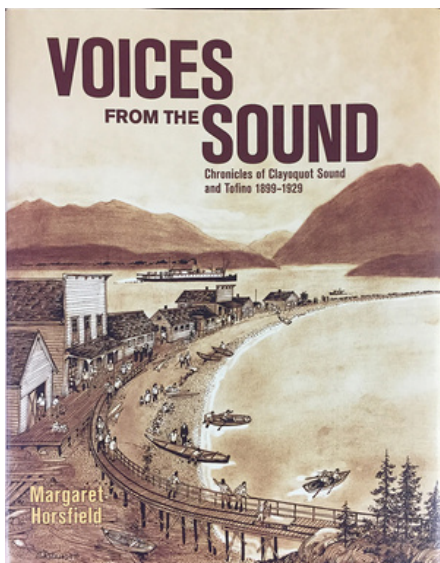
SECLUDED BEACH IN CLAYOQUOT SOUND, TOFINO

971.134 HOR—**Voices from the Sound: Chronicles of Clayoquot Sound and Tofino 1899-1929** by Margaret Horsfield

971.134 DIC—**Watershed Moments - A Pictorial History of Courtenay and District:** including Comox, Cumberland, Forbidden Plateau, Goose Spit, Merville, Royston and Union Bay by C. Dickinson, D. Griffiths, J. Hagen and C. Siba.

971.134 PHI—**Our Whole Bamfield Saga: Pioneer Life on Vancouver Island's West Coast** by Judith Phillips

971.134 DUF—**Old Langford an Illustrated History 1850 to 1950** by Maureen Duffus





SHARON SYRETTE #A5668, ABORIGINAL GENEALOGY ASSOCIATION

November 8th is National Indigenous Veterans Day—a memorial day observed in Canada in recognition of aboriginal contributions to military service, particularly in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. The day was first commemorated in 1994.

During WWI, First Nations, Inuit and Métis participation was proportionally higher than that of any other people in Canada, with one in three Indigenous males enlisting. Many Indigenous women also served, in various roles, including as nurses tending the wounded. Of the more than 12,000 Indigenous people (Status and Non-Status), who served in WWI and II, it has been estimated that more than 500 Indigenous soldiers died.

At the time of the WWI, status Indians were exempt from conscription because they were not considered “citizens” of Canada and did not have the right to vote. To serve in the Canadian Air Force or Canadian Navy, you had to be “of pure European descent”.

This restriction was rescinded in 1940 for the Air Force and 1943 for the Navy. For other branches, Indigenous people had to become enfranchised, which meant that when they returned to their home communities, they no longer had Indian status. Many veterans re-enlisted for the Korean War simply because they were unable to re-enter their previous lives.

Many recruits reported they were treated as equals, paid the same as other soldiers, and generally accepted without prejudice. Returning home after the WWI, however, Indigenous ex-servicemen received little public or private support. They were usually denied access to soldier settlement schemes.

It was only in 1995, fifty years after the WWII, that Indigenous Peoples were allowed to lay Remembrance Day wreaths at the National War Memorial to remember and honour their dead comrades.

Like all who serve during wars, Indigenous veterans made great sacrifices to serve in Canada's war efforts, both overseas and at home.

Sites with lists of indigenous veterans:

<https://www.vcn.bc.ca/~jeffrey1/tribute.htm> Includes band and service details
<http://nativeveterans-en.e-monsite.com/>

Learn more:

<https://www.veterans.gc.ca/eng/remembrance/people-and-stories/indigenous-veterans>
 Includes stories from several wars of indigenous participation.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0yETUVzqfw&t=315s> A great tribute worth watching

A SHORT LIFE REMEMBERED

MARIAN WIGHT #4906

Dan, as he was called by his family, was born on January 20, 1896 in Baddeck, Nova Scotia, Canada. The family moved to New Waterford, Nova Scotia so that the sons could work in the coal mines. On February 22, 1915, Dan signed up for the Canadian Expeditionary Force in Halifax, Nova Scotia. As a private in the Canadian Infantry's Nova Scotia Regiment, 25th Battalion, his service number was 68262.

His service was brief. He left Halifax on May 20, 1915 on the S.S. Saxonia and arrived in England on May 29, 1915. On September 19, 1915, he embarked from Folkstone, England to France. There is no more information until the "Killed in Action" record appeared in his file on June 10, 1916. He is buried in Railway Dugouts Burial Ground near Ypres, Belgium.

Norman Daniel Franklin Wight's short life is remembered by the family. His brother, Gordon, named his first son Norman Daniel Franklin Wight. Since then, there have been many descendants named Norman, Daniel or both, as well as a Norma.



NORMAN DANIEL FRANKLIN WIGHT



- | | |
|---|---|
| Cpl. Whittle, Edwin. 2 ^d C.M.R. | Lieut. Wilkes, Maurice. 19 th Bn. |
| Pte. Whittlesea, William George. 18 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkie, George. 4 th Bn. |
| Pte. Whitworth, Harold William. 19 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkie, Gordon Murray Francis. 8 th Bn. |
| Pte. Whollon, Sylvester Richard. 5 th C.M.R. | Pte. Wilkie, John. 43 rd Bn. |
| Pte. Whord, Edd. 1 st C.M.R. | Pte. Wilkie, Milton George. 3 rd Bn. |
| Pte. Whyld, William Joseph. 2 ^d Pnr. Bn. | Pte. Wilkins, Arthur. 60 th Bn. |
| L/Cpl. Whynt, Charles Scott. 13 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkins, Charles. 18 th Bn. |
| Pte. White, Douglas Robert. 8 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkins, Charles Burton. 2 ^d Bn. |
| Pte. White, George. 87 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkins, Frank. 75 th Bn. |
| Pte. White, George Smith. 49 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkins, George James. 21 st Bn. |
| Pte. White, James Creighton. 87 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkins, Harris. 112 th Bn. |
| Pte. White, John Hay. 49 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkins, Robert. 5 th C.M.R. |
| Sgt. White, William. 49 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, Arthur. P.P.C.I.I. |
| Pte. White, William Martin. 20 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, Charles Henry. 15 th Bn. |
| Pte. Whitlock, Andrew. 102 nd Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, Culbert. 1 st Bn. |
| Pte. Whitlock, William Bell. 8 th Bn. | L/Cpl. Wilkinson, Edward. 102 nd Bn. |
| Pte. Wibberley, Edward. 7 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, Edward Alexander. 44 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wiberg, Edward Frederick. 31 st Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, Fred. 21 st Bn. |
| Pte. Wickens, Edward R. 18 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, Frederick H. Barton. 43 rd Bn. |
| Pte. Wickens, Herbert Luther. 18 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, Gerald Edward D. 5 th C.M.R. |
| Pte. Wickens, Leonard. 58 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, Herbert W. 1 st Pnr. Bn. |
| Pte. Wickham, Alfred L. 5 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, James Ernest. M.A. |
| Bdr. Wickham, Ralph K. 1 st Bde. C.F.A. | Pte. Wilkinson, John. 4 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wickham, William. 1 st Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, John Albert. 21 st Bn. |
| Pte. Wicks, Charles William. 75 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, John Farrar. 14 th Bn. |
| Bdr. Widdicombe, Charles L. 2 ^d Bde. C.F.A. | Art. E. Wilkinson, Robert. "Grise" |
| Cpl. Widfield, Joseph Roy. 5 th C.M.R. | Pte. Wilkinson, Scott. 78 th Bn. |
| Pte. Widel, Gustaff Withal. 223 rd Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, William. 4 th C.M.R. |
| Pte. Widger, Richard Thomas. 49 th Bn. | Pte. Wilkinson, William Benjamin. 28 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wiffen, Arthur George. P.P.C.I.I. | Pte. Wilks, Harry. R.C.R. |
| Pte. Wiffen, William John. 8 th Bn. | Pte. Will, George G. 15 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wiffin, Frederick. 14 th Bn. | Pte. Will, James. 52 nd Bn. |
| Pte. Wiggins, Albert Edward. P.P.C.I.I. | Capt. Willans, Richard Hart Keatings. 2 ^d Bn. |
| Bdr. Wigham, John. 27 th Bn. | Pte. Willard, Frederick. 80 th Bn. |
| L/Cpl. Wigham, William. 49 th Bn. | Lieut. Willard, William Hartley. 18 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wight, Norman D.F. 25 th Bn. | Pte. Willetton, Arthur. 43 rd Bn. |
| Pte. Wightman, William. 24 th Bn. | Pte. Willett, Arthur. 1 st Bn. |
| Cpl. Wilk, John. 31 st Bn. | Pte. Williams, Albert. 26 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wilbur, Edward Garfield. P.P.C.I.I. | Pte. Williams, Alexander. 15 th Bn. |
| Spr. Wilcock, John. 2 ^d Tim. Coy. | Pte. Williams, Alexander Leonard. 50 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wilcock, Thomas. Corps Cav. R. | Pte. Williams, Alfred. 20 th Bn. |
| Sgt. Wilcox, Abraham. 5 th C.M.R. | Pte. Williams, Alfred. 1 st Pnr. Bn. |
| Pte. Wilcox, Charles William. 44 th Bn. | Pte. Williams, Alfred. 44 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wilcox, Ernest. 16 th Bn. | L/Cpl. Williams, Alfred Firmston. 49 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wilcox, Henry Robert. 115 th Bn. | Major Williams, Alvan Clare. 5 th Bn. |
| Cpl. Wilcox, Thomas A. 24 th Bn. | Major Williams, Arthur James. R.C.R. |
| Pte. Wilcox, William Henry. 5 th C.M.R. | Pte. Williams, Arthur Jennings. 46 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wild, Arthur. 49 th Bn. | Pte. Williams, Arthur Percival. 73 rd Bn. |
| Pte. Wild, Frederick George. 43 rd Bn. | Pte. Williams, Bertrand Lindsay. 239 th Coy. |
| Pte. Wild, George Alfred. 21 st Bn. | Capt. Williams, Clarence Earl. 26 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wild, Jerry. 43 rd Bn. | Pte. Williams, Clarence James. 87 th Bn. |
| Spr. Wilde, George. 2 ^d Tim. Coy. | Pte. Williams, Conrad Ernest. 49 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wilde, James. 15 th Bn. | Pte. Williams, Courtney. 2 ^d Pnr. Bn. |
| Pte. Wildgoose, Arthur. 49 th Bn. | Pte. Williams, David. 3 rd Bn. |
| Pte. Wildgoose, Norman. 5 th Bn. | Pte. Williams, David Edwin. 7 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wildsmith, Bertram Elgin. 5 th Bn. | Pte. Williams, Edward Albert. 42 nd Bn. |
| Pte. Wiles, Olig Jabez. 2 ^d Pnr. Bn. | Sgt. Williams, Edward Hull. 43 rd Bn. |
| Pte. Wiley, Alfred. 4 th C.M.R. | Pte. Williams, Eric. 16 th Bn. |
| Pte. Wiley, Ralph. R.C.R. | Pte. Williams, Ernest Edward. 1 st C.M.R. |
| Pte. Wilkes, Alfred James. 1 st Bn. | |
| Pte. Wilkes, Charles. R.C.R. | |
| Pte. Wilkes, Henry. 15 th Bn. | |



FINDING FRED LEE



COMMUNITY FILM PREVIEW On Remembrance Day

Friday, November 11, 2022

3:00pm & 4:30pm

168 E. Pender Street, Vancouver, BC

\$5 + GST per person

Limited seating. Advanced registration required at bit.ly/FindFredLee

Co-Presented by



CHINESE
CANADIAN
MUSEUM
華裔博物館

華埠掌故
CHINATOWN
STORYTELLING
CENTRE

oxigin
FILMS

In collaboration with



Chinese Canadian Military
Museum Society

Finding Fred Lee— a story within a story

LINDA YIP #5644

It's the story of Jack Gin: BC-born engineer and entrepreneur (and Honourary Rocky Ranger). And it's the story of Pte. Fred Lee, the forgotten First World War soldier who gave his life in the Battle of Hill 70. As the stories unfold, Jack finds one clue after another and drops into the rabbit hole of answers leading to more questions. Who was this Kamloops boy, one of only three known Chinese soldiers serving the Canadian Expeditionary Force in France?

See *Finding Fred Lee*, this
Remembrance Day, November 11th.

BCGS member Linda Yip joined the team of historians, researchers and writers to help find Fred.

Observe Remembrance Day with the Chinese Canadian Museum, Chinatown Storytelling Centre, OxiGin Films and Chinese Canadian Military Museum Society at a special community film preview of "Finding Fred Lee." Produced by Jack Gin, this documentary highlights his journey to recover the lost history of Private Frederick Lee, a Chinese Canadian veteran from WWI who perished at the Battle of Hill 70 in France in 1917.

November 11, 2022

3:00pm and 4:30pm (two screenings)

168 E. Pender St., Vancouver

Price: \$5 + GST / person

Doors open 30 minutes prior for check-in. Light refreshments provided.

Advanced registration required. Book your tickets at bit.ly/FindFredLee

Photo courtesy of Richard Lee.
Background document from Library and Archives Canada.

2023 IS FAST APPROACHING MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

A BCGS Membership makes an excellent gift for family history friends and YOU

- Monthly Zoom meetings feature a variety of speakers who present each month
- Free access to Spring and Fall online seminars
- Full access to our genealogical library with research help available for the asking
- Quarterly eJournal Issues
- Newsletters with links to upcoming events
- And so much more!

[CLICK HERE TO RENEW NOW](#)

MEG MCLAUGHLIN, #3847
GENEALOGY BLOGGER

There are some mysteries found when researching your family history that are more intriguing than others. As this is the month for wartime memories, my thoughts turned to my father. What I knew of his war made an interesting story but so much remained hidden.

I wasn't the only one interested. My late Aunt Jean once wondered out loud about Dad's wartime experiences. It was then that she informed us that Len Deighton tried to interview my father for his book on WWII. Dad refused to talk because of the Official Secrets Act. I read Deighton's *Blood Tears and Folly: An Objective Look at World War II*. It was light on information about the war in the East. Too bad my dad hadn't spilled the beans about his time in the Royal Air Force (RAF).

Determined to find out more, I ordered his records under the UK's Ministry of Defense Publication Scheme. It took a while, as they required an official copy of his death certificate. I had to order that from Ontario and wait. I felt I was racing against time. I knew those records would reveal all about Dad's time in the service so that I could let my aunt know. Of that generation of my family, she was the only one left in Canada.

When the records arrived, I didn't even tell my aunt. I had expected them to tell me an easily translated story, but the military record of Charles Edwin Booth Cavanagh listed only the places he had been stationed. It told me so little about his experience and nothing about



BUT FOR A WAR



Photo taken at RAF HQ in 1945. It was previously the Rangoon law courts. My father, Flight Lieutenant Charles Edwin Booth Cavanagh, is the man on the left in the front row.

why he had been mentioned in dispatches.

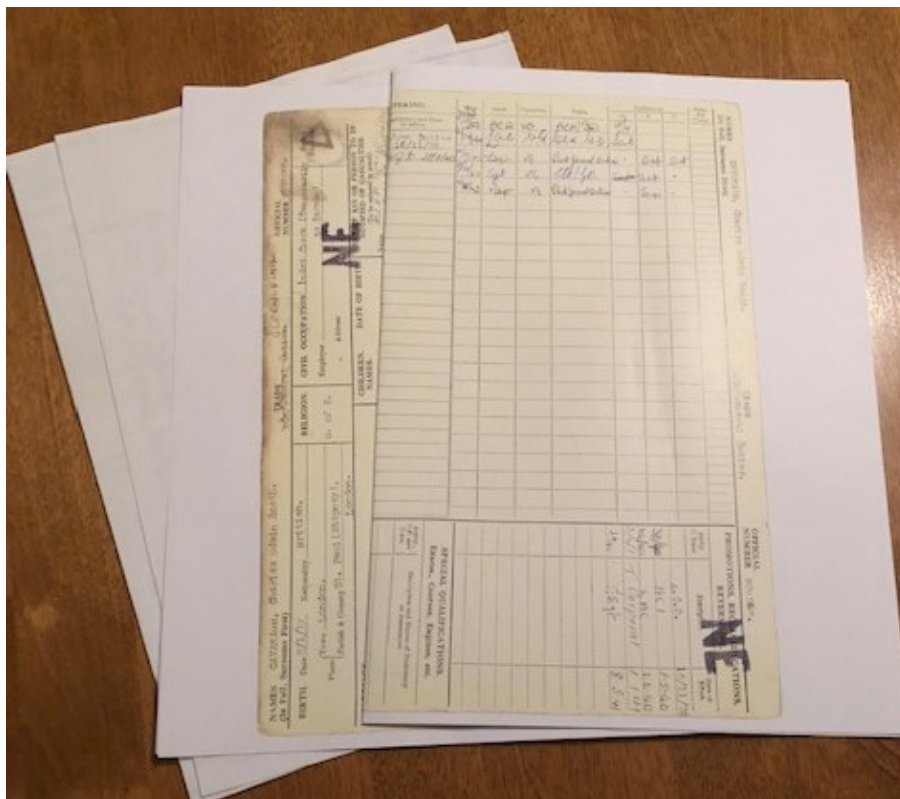
My cousin Barbara said, "The war was the making of your dad." To understand that, you need to know his background. He lived, with his parents, in their pub on Dock Street in Stepney, along with brothers, half-brothers and one half-sister. Money was tight.

He volunteered for the RAF a few months after war was declared in 1939. He did that in spite of his father advising him it would upset his oldest brother, Harry Booth, who considered the RAF to be "his" branch of the military, having served in WWI. My father wasn't a flier, though, he failed the eye test. He was assigned to clerical duties supporting the buildup of equipment and airfield construction for the fighter squadrons in England.

In 1942, he was transferred. The convoy he was with had originally

been heading for the Far East, but got diverted to Bombay when Singapore fell. By this time, he was a commissioned officer in RAF Intelligence. The Allies were busy setting up air operations in southern India. He liaised with various groups, including old sea captains in the area, advising them how to spot enemy aircraft. He was chosen because, as they put it, "You speak their language, Charlie." Which went to show that spending time tending bar in a pub next to the docks in the East End of London had some use to the war office.

His time in RAF intelligence involved assignments in many areas in India, some of which were being besieged by the Japanese from Burma, which was largely under their control. The Allied focus was on taking back Burma. My father had a multitude of assignments with different military sections involved in the Burma campaign, and for a time he was



attached to the USAAF in Calcutta. Once the Japanese were retreating, one of his assignments included interviewing ex-prisoners of war. Intelligence officers were cycled quickly through that particular job, as it took its toll. On a happier note, his final assignment was taking charge of a dozen men to get them back to England in time for Christmas. They took a convoluted route on airplanes that were also being sent back to where they had come from. The men made it back to Cambridge just before Christmas in 1945.

That was long after VE day, which had been celebrated in May of that year; the war in the Far East almost forgotten. Indeed, the 14th Army, which waged the Burma Campaign under General Bill Slim, was often called the 'forgotten Army'.

The Military records I received from the Ministry of Defense

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

Although he had been assigned to a less well known theatre of war, my father had proved himself and taken his life far beyond his East End roots. It was a transformation which had really "been the making of him". It's strange to think that, but for a war, I wouldn't be here.

E JOURNAL NEWS

LYNNE FLETCHER #5353



Bump...thump...ker-thump...

A constant shake up rattles my joints and my vehicle as I travel along various highways and side roads of Vancouver Island. A reminder of past years, the old A&E railway tracks cross and re-cross the roads here, even though the line has not run for many years. There are hints, or suggestions that pop up now and then to insist that it's time to revive the railway. No whistles yet, but often a hint of its past glory attracts my eye – an engine (often beautifully restored), or giant steam plant, or a small ore car sitting on the corner of a sidewalk. That railway was a busy corridor in the early years of the last century, carrying coal, logs and lumber, agricultural products and lots of people. It connected many lives on this island, ones I'm still learning about.

Do you have a railway connection in your family history? Would you share that history, and the life of the person(s) who took part in it?

Our members would enjoy learning your history. Please send your story / pictures to Journal@bcgs.ca



LIEUTENANT COMMANDER JOHN DOUGLAS MAITLAND, 1916-1997

Douglas Maitland, my husband's uncle, was one of the well-known "Three Musketeers" (along with Lt. Cdr. Cornelius Burke and Lt. Tom Ladner) who commanded Motor Gun Boats (MGB) in the Mediterranean Sea during WWII.

LINDA MAITLAND, #4334

Douglas Maitland, my husband's uncle, was one of the well-known "Three Musketeers" (along with Lt Cdr Cornelius Burke and Lt Tom Ladner) who commanded Motor Gun Boats (MGB) in the Mediterranean Sea during WWII.

Doug, Corny and Tommy attended school together, sailed together at the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club and served together in the Royal Canadian Navy. They were sent separately to England, on loan to the Royal Navy. Each man separately chose to serve on MGBs (aka Dog Boats), and then found themselves assigned to the same flotilla. Dubbed the "Three Musketeers" for their daring adventures in the Mediterranean, this gallant trio brought fame to the Canadian Navy.

Dog Boats served to keep the supply lines to Britain open. Offensively, they were to stalk the convoy lanes of the Netherlands, Belgium and France to intercept German coastal

convoys. Because the German E-boats were doing the same along the coast of England, the Dog Boats were to intercept these E-boats. It was a dangerous assignment and there were many close calls. In 1944, an MGB/MTB Flotilla was formed at Malta under Doug Maitland's command. Although the crews were British, every one of the seven boats in this flotilla was commanded by a Canadian. Their assignment was to harass enemy shipping off the shore of Yugoslavia.

Their best known exploit came in the Mljet Channel off Yugoslavia when they intercepted a convoy. They closed at six knots under cover of darkness before opening fire. After five hours of combat, including several daring manoeuvres, the channel was cleared. Among the enemy losses were an oil tanker and three schooners laden with food and ammunition. An official report described the attack as "the shrewdest blow that the enemy has suffered on the Dalmation Coast."

The Three Musketeers suffered no casualties among their crew.

The combined exploits of Maitland, Ladner and Burke made naval history. Boats under their commands helped to cover five Allied landings, shot down numerous enemy aircraft, routed a combined German - Italian convoy in the Adriatic by sinking five ships, sank three enemy troop ships off the Yugoslavian coast, and engaged in practically continuous convoy duty throughout the entire Mediterranean campaign. Not one of the trio was ever wounded.

These three naval officers served with distinction. Each was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross and bars, along with numerous "Mentions in Dispatches".

Lt. Commander Doug Maitland was also awarded the Croix de Guerre avec Palme en Bronze (France) "for exceptional services in cooperation with the French Forces during operations on the Island of Elbe."



Left to right: Tom Ladner, Douglas Maitland and Cornelius "Corny" Burke, the "Three Musketeers" in London, 1945. NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF CANADA/PA 180065



Highlights of Doug Maitland's service:

1939 October Joined the RCNVR at HMCS Discovery.

1940 March Left in the first group of 25 (of 250 total) and reported to HMS King Alfred at Hove training base in England. Appointed to the Armed Merchant Cruiser HMS Cilcia for astral navigation and patrolled to

Iceland and the Denmark Strait. The ship intercepted three German ships running for home and put prize crews on board.

1941 April Appointed First Lieutenant of MTB-69. On their first operation, a mine blew the stern off and that was the end of that boat.

1942 Spring & Summer With Burke and Ladner, operated offensive patrols in the English Channel. Doug sank a German Flak Trawler off the Dutch coast.

1942 August A German aircraft blew the tail off

Doug's MGB, so Doug went home to Vancouver.

1942 September 2 Doug married fiancée Jeanie McIntyre in Vancouver (see left bottom photo).

1943 January Returned and took a group of twenty boats to the Mediterranean. A Focke-Wulf Condor was shadowing a damaged U-Boat and attacked the Dog Boats, hitting Doug's boat. His boat was on fire and was being fired at by the damaged U-Boat. Doug swung his boat 180° into the waves and a huge wave swept the boat, putting out the fire.

1942-1943 His boat took part in the North Africa landings in 1942, and the Sicily and Italy landings in 1943, as part of the 20th MGB Flotilla.

1944 January The 56th MGB/MTB Flotilla was formed with Doug in Command as Acting Lt-Cdr and in Command of MGB-657.

1945 May All three arrived home after five years' service.

Post war, Doug was a partner in Macaulay Nicolls Maitland and a Vancouver businessman as well as a keen yachtsman and a Commodore of the Royal Vancouver Yacht Club (RVYC). He died at Lang Bay, BC in August 1997.

The Three Musketeers and their exploits are described in detail in the RVYC article in *The Ensign*, Winter 2011/2012, p 8-11, found here:

<https://navalmuseumofalbertasociety.ca/resources/Documents/Ensign%202012%20Vol%2021/Ensign%20Winter%202011-12%20Color.pdf>

and in the books "Champagne Navy" by Noland & Street and "Victory at Sea" by Hal Lawrence.



RETURN-IT SUCCESS

The success of this program is first because **Bill Clayton** had the initiative to start and continue it. Secondly it's about all the members who are going to the Return-it Depots on their own!

Thank you to all the contributors.

TOTAL NOW:
\$2,193
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PIECES



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WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES?

SUSAN SNALAM, #4403

1. How did/does your family celebrate the Holiday Season? **What traditions do you still keep going?**
2. Did any members of your family **serve in the military** during WW1 or WW2? Have you been able to find their records?
3. Now that you are retired (or will be soon), what goals do you have for **your future?**
4. If you could **interview any one** of your deceased ancestors, who would it be and why?

The Newsletter Team would love to publish some of your responses to question #3. Please send us an email newsletter@bcgs.ca with your recipes!



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 the Sea Meets the Sky
 2023 Conference & AGM**

June 1-4, 2023

Information is updated at
uelac.ca/conference-2023/
 as it is confirmed.

**These four UELAC Pacific Region Branches
 are here to help you discover your Loyalist history.**

Chilliwack · Vancouver Island · Thompson/Okanagan
 and Vancouver

Find us at www.uelac.ca/branches/



WHAT'S ONLINE?

Click the crest and link to the **BCGS What's Up?** page to stay up to date on what webinars are available. The **BCGS GENBLAST** includes notifications, too — don't forget to open that email and check it out!

What's Up?
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FREE ACCESS TO **THE BRITISH NEWSPAPER ARCHIVES** AND **FAMILY SEARCH LIBRARY** ARE ALWAYS GREAT REASONS TO COME AND VISIT THE LIBRARY, **TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND SATURDAYS!**

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"The Times-Colonist" (1884-2010)

"The Vancouver Sun" (1912-2010)

Access Here:

<https://go.proquest.com/BCHistoricalNewspapers>



LEGACY FAMILY TREE WEBINARS

9 Free Webinars this month!

They have topics for many areas of interest. Take a look at the schedule by **clicking the image**.

Subscriptions are available if you wish to have unlimited access to all webinars and handouts.

WHAT'S IN-PERSON?

FAMILY HISTORY DNA CHAT

December 9
2:30-3:30 pm

In-person FREE program at Surrey Library's Cloverdale Branch. Join us for a new family history program to discuss using DNA for family history research. This is an opportunity to learn from others and share resources and experiences.

All levels welcome.

Registration required. Email familyhistory@surrey.ca or call 604-598-7327

FUN FAMILY HISTORY FRIDAY

Fourth Friday of each month
2:30 - 3:30 pm

In-person FREE program at Surrey Library's Cloverdale Branch. Join us for some lively, open family history discussions in a roundtable format. We will discuss up-and-coming family history programs. Find out what's new in our family history databases.

Registration required. Email familyhistory@surrey.ca or call 604-598-7327

Cloverdale Branch of Surrey Libraries is OPEN every day,

so please come in and use our databases and other resources. Need help? Please ask!

Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 8pm – Friday 9.30am to 5pm – Saturday 10am to 5pm – Sunday 1pm to 5pm

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

WHAT'S ONLINE?

English Research

with Rob Whitlock

[Click here
to email for
Registration](#)

Sponsored by the Surrey BC Family History Centre

November 21st Monday at 10 am – Noon

Or November 23rd Wednesday at 7 —9 pm

A Zoom Class—pre-registration required

Email: surreyfhc@gmail.com to get the registration link
Indicate the class you wish to attend as the links are different

While distant travels are still a bit of a challenge, both local and online resources are providing more and more access to many English records.

This session will focus on getting the most out of all these sources. More research done before you travel provides for greater efficiency when you do travel.



Coffee Chat Zooms



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 for one.
Not sure? Check the BCGS Website Calendar-of-events.

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



GOING BEYOND BASICS: CHINESE GENEALOGY COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, November 3, 10 to 11 am
RSVP Linda Yip
hello@past-presence.com



ENGLAND COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, November 3, 7 to 9 pm
"Show and Tell" With Ann Buchanan
RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY Introductory DNA COFFEE CHAT
Monday, November 7th, 1 to 3 pm
RSVP Sharon Clayton
sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



PRAIRIES COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, NOVEMBER 17, 7 to 9 pm
With Eunice Robinson
RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



FRENCH CONNECTION (FRENCH-CANADIAN) COFFEE CHAT
Tuesday, November 15, 7 to 9 pm
With Kim Kujawski & Sue Sullivan
RSVP kim@tfcg.ca



ADVANCED DNA COFFEE CHAT
Tuesday, November 15th, 7 to 9 pm
With Terry Hartley, Jim Graham & Kathleen Graham
RSVP Terry Hartley terhart1@gmail.com



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY & Parental Puzzles (NPE) COFFEE CHAT
Monday, November 21st, 1 to 3 pm
RSVP Sharon Clayton
sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



SCOTTISH COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, November 24, 7 to 9 pm
With Eunice Robinson
RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



INDIGENOUS COFFEE CHAT
Tuesday, November 29th, 10:30 to Noon
With Aboriginal Genealogy Assoc.
RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



IRELAND COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, December 1, 7 to 9 pm
With Eunice Robinson
RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



SCANDINAVIAN COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, December 8, 7 to 9 pm
RSVP Kathie Ross coffeechat@bcgs.ca