

THE BCGS NEWS

OCTOBER 2022
VOL 7 | ISN 9



NEXT MEETING: WEDNESDAY—OCTOBER 12TH, 7:30PM

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Nathan Wood – Houston, TX #5941
Bonnie Stewart – Delta #5942
Jean Pearce – Delta #3698

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

EUNICE ROBINSON #112, PRESIDENT@BCGS.CA

Haven't we had a wonderful summer! The icing on the cake, of course, was the BCGS Anniversary Cruise. Listening and learning from Blaine Bettinger is always a pleasure. Many thanks to the Cruise Team headed by Sharon Clayton. It was a memorable trip.

Now that we are back home, and settling into our fall/winter routine, I'm hoping that you will consider volunteering some time to our Society. We are looking for facilitators for a couple of our Coffee Chats - you don't have to be an expert, just be willing to lead the group. We can always use library volunteers too - whether volunteering for a shift each week, or once a month, we would love to have you join us. And indexers, we have a number of projects waiting for a willing pair of hands to help. And you can do it from home too!

We will also be looking for a Treasurer at the next AGM, as our current Treasurer has to step down. Interested in serving on the Board of Directors? If you are able to volunteer for any position or project, let me know.

Last but not least, working on our own research. A re-occurring theme has been - what will happen to your research when you are no longer able to continue. Have you entered all your findings? Have you named all your photographs? Have you written all your family stories? While we all love the actual research, it would be a shame to have it all tossed out just because its in a pile of paper.

Until next month, happy researching!

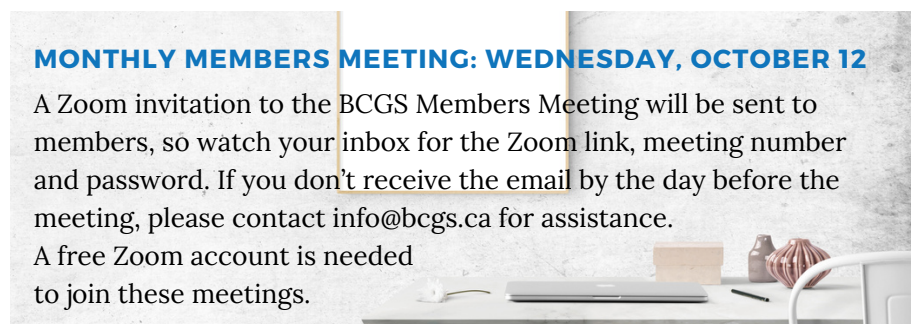
MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

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.



**COFFEE
CHATS**





REGISTER HERE



CHRIS PATON

BA (HONS), HND, PGDIP GENEALOGICAL STUDIES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2022

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

Originally from Northern Ireland, but with both Scottish and Irish roots, Chris holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Genealogical Studies from the University of Strathclyde, and works as a professional genealogist, running the **Scotland's Greatest Story** research service. He has been a resident of Ayrshire for almost two decades, but in the past has also been based in the English cities of Plymouth and Bristol, the Scottish city of Glasgow and town of Helensburgh, and the Northern Irish town of Carrickfergus, from where he originally hails.

<https://scotlandsgreateststory.wordpress.com/about-2/>



**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.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2022

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

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: www.FamilyStoryStudio.com



**KAREN
INKSTER
VANCE**



**TRACING YOUR IRISH
ANCESTORS THROUGH
LAND RECORDS**

This ties in with my latest book, with most of the examples/case studies actually from Northern Ireland.

**SCOTTISH MARRIAGE:
INSTANTLY BUCKLED
FOR LIFE**

A detailed look at the various forms of marriage that have historically existed in Scotland, both regular and irregular.

BEGIN WITH BOOKS SPEAKERS SCHEDULE

Celia Lewis 10:30 am

A Library is Your Best Genealogy

Resource: 10 TIPS

Celia will help you quickly learn how our Library - any library - can be your BEST genealogy research resource.

Aidren Kayce 11:30 am

Older Can be Better

Aidren will discuss the CD/DVD collection she has been organizing. She will highlight some of the gems she found that are not necessarily on the internet and will discuss how to operate the older CDs on the library computers.

Yvette Howard 1:00 pm

Who Do We Exchange Journals With?

Yvette Howard will discuss the journals that BCGS receives from over 100 family history societies from all over the world. Only a few of these are found on the website. All can be found in the Library stacks or on the Journal Exchange database.

Ann Buchanan 2:00 pm

Newspapers from BC and British Isles

Ann Buchanan will demonstrate the new Library subscription to the British Newspapers Archive. She will also review and show us where to find the many British Columbia newspapers that have been collected by BCGS members for decades.

BEGIN WITH BOOKS – OCTOBER 30TH



10AM TO 3 PM WITH SPEAKERS AND A BOOK SALE
12837-76 AVE, UNIT 211, SURREY, BC

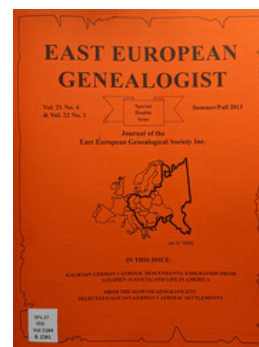
GENEALOGY GEMS & ODDITIES

FROM THE BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

CELIA LEWIS #5183

We have the East European Genealogist Journal covering a number of years. Their quarterly journal is published in Winnipeg, Manitoba. I picked one out as an example: a “Special Double Issue: Vol. 21 No. 4 & Vol. 22 No. 1.”

This specific double issue highlights research on Galician German Catholic Emigrants and settlers in America [N.America, not USA]. The issue includes explanations, shows the Winnipeg library acquisitions, listing a variety of journals and newsletters that would be very helpful for people researching East European ancestors.



East European Genealogist Journal of the East European Genealogical Society Inc. 971.27 EEG

The German Catholic Emigrants from Galizien [proper name for Galicia] settled in four major regions of Manitoba and Saskatchewan: Winnipeg & Gimli in MB, and Lemberg & Rockglen in SK. A map on p. 16 illustrates these four places.

There is a marvellous chart on p. 18 listing the Galizien places of origin, and the places where groups from those Galizien origins settled in Canada. Plus a wonderful map of Galizien on the facing page [p. 19] showing German Catholic colonies and the district towns of German Catholics who immigrated to Canada. As the Icelanders already were in Manitoba by the time the Galizien settlers came in the late 1890s and 1900s, they were moving into a fairly well established area. A major boon for the newcomers.

If your ancestors came from Galizien, this particular issue of the East European Genealogist would be very helpful as a research starting point. Plus it points to a number of related organizations which might also have useful information for you. Join us on October 30th to pull the boxes of E.E.G. journals and see what treasures you may find.

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.

British Columbia Genealogical Society

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 88054, Lansdowne Mall
Richmond, BC V6X 3T6

Library: 604-502-9119

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



**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**

BETWEEN THE STACKS

CORRINE JUBB, #5215 BCGS LIBRARY ADMINISTRATOR

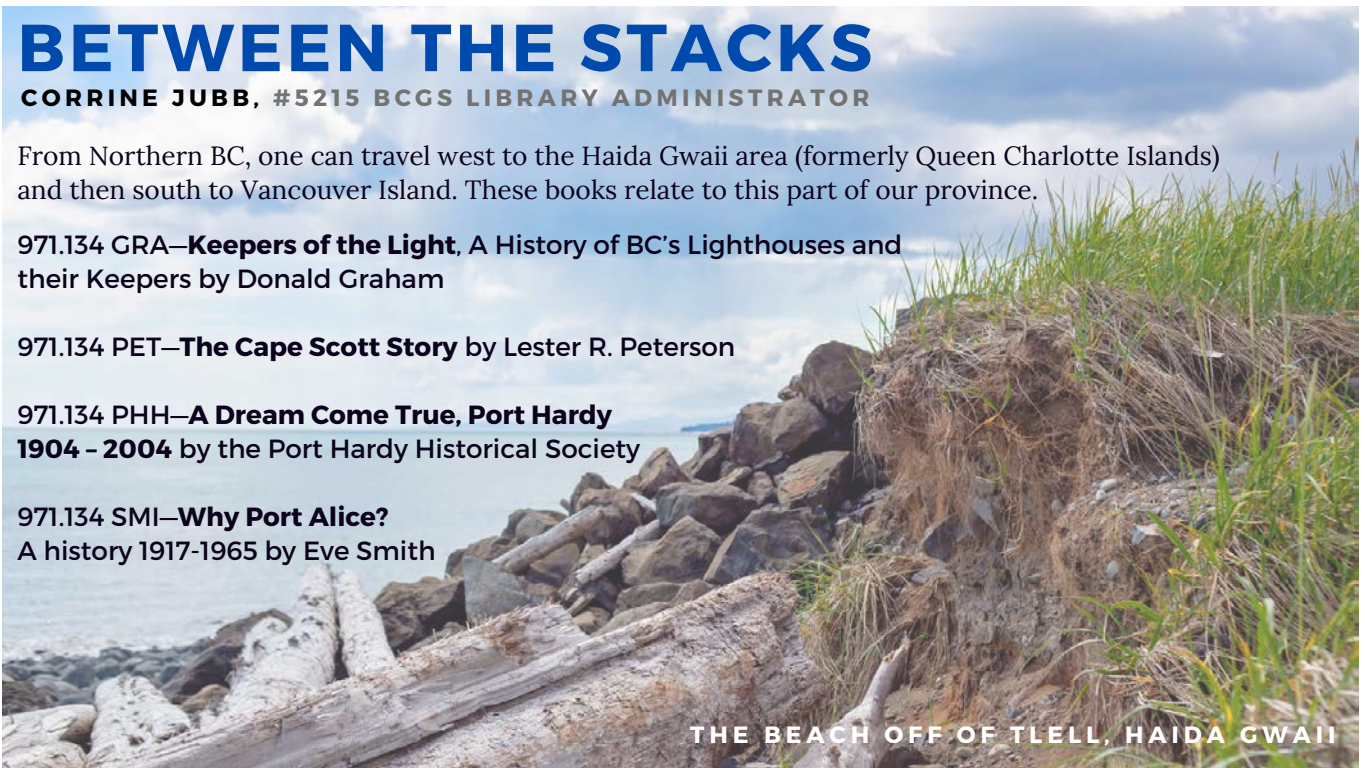
From Northern BC, one can travel west to the Haida Gwaii area (formerly Queen Charlotte Islands) and then south to Vancouver Island. These books relate to this part of our province.

971.134 GRA—**Keepers of the Light**, A History of BC's Lighthouses and their Keepers by Donald Graham

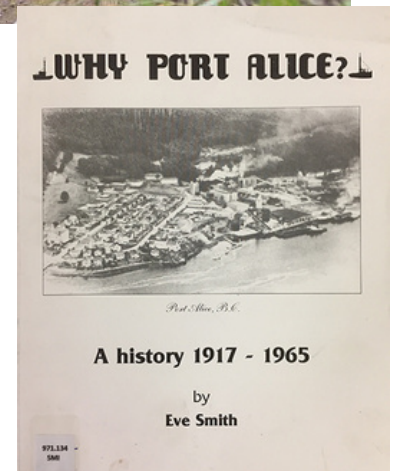
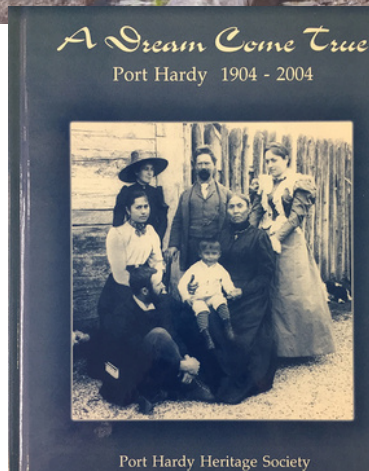
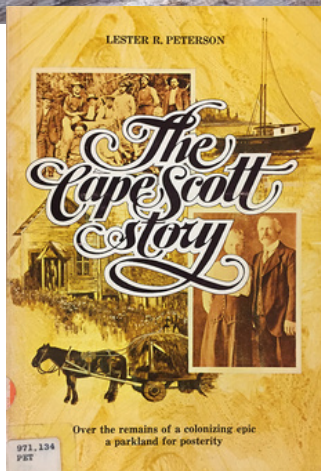
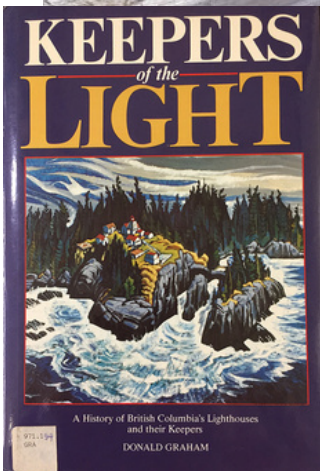
971.134 PET—**The Cape Scott Story** by Lester R. Peterson

971.134 PHH—**A Dream Come True, Port Hardy 1904 - 2004** by the Port Hardy Historical Society

971.134 SMI—**Why Port Alice?**
A history 1917-1965 by Eve Smith



THE BEACH OFF OF TLELL, HAIDA GWAII



E JOURNAL NEWS

LYNNE FLETCHER #5353



Last weekend was the 100th anniversary of 'Aggie Hall' here in Ladysmith, and a lovely birthday party was held to celebrate the occasion. The hall was filled with displays of books, pictures, 1940s style roller skates, flags, flowers and pictures from many events through the years. At the table of items from the local museum, I found lace work and crocheted items that reminded me of things my grandmother had made. At one table, a display of hooked carpets was attracting lots of questions, and there were several offers to purchase one of the rugs on display. The lady in charge of that table assured the interested party that the small mat, which showed a lovely sailboat, would be expensive as it had cost more than \$200 when she traveled to Newfoundland and bought it, 15 years ago.

Do you have an interesting heirloom, one that may have been costly when it was acquired, or that has grown in value since that time? Could you tell us how it connects to you and your family, and why it is so special?

RESEARCH, STORIES & ALEXANDER

MEG MCLAUGHLIN , #3847 GENEALOGY BLOGGER

As summer winds down to a close, things gear up for a new school year. (I still notice such things; the school yard is right outside my living room window.) Even people who aren't in the school system seem to be affected. Meetings start up again and there seem to be more events to take up our time. At least that's what happens to me.

Unfortunately, research and genealogy tend to be put on the back burner. All of that is a round-about way of saying I haven't done much research lately. Although that's not really true. I've started writing down some of the stories I've found in my family tree. **I'm fleshing out the story of Alexander Matheson at the moment.** It's a story I find fascinating. I'm also lucky enough to have his letters to refer to. As he was corresponding with a sister that he hadn't been in touch with for 40 years, he wrote about what he did after he left home. Of course, the details are sketchy, especially to someone reading them 100 years later.



That's the thing. People living through the same years have common frames of reference. They know what places were like when they consisted of one street and a scatter of houses. They know what the transportation system, or lack of it, was like and have taken the same conveyances to get from one place to another. I don't know that stuff. Not only do I want to find this information to gain a better understanding of my ancestor's life, I have to put aside my knowledge of places that have grown beyond the few houses that used to be there at the beginning.

When Alexander wrote about leaving his home in Puslinch, ON in 1855 and finding work around Owen Sound, it seemed a simple statement, but is it really? How did he get there? Was there a water route? Were there roads?

Was there even a place called Owen Sound at that time? If there was, I know it couldn't have been anywhere near as large as the city I visited a few years ago. I bet the people were a lot more civilized in the present day as well.

So, while I'm not doing actual genealogical research at the present, I am searching out information about the early roads in Ontario and looking for books with information about Owen Sound. I could probably class what I'm doing as family history research. It also makes me think that perhaps, even in locations that were ongoing concerns when my ancestors lived there, I might want to research the places further. Perhaps understanding the lay of the land when my family lived there would give me a better idea about their lives and maybe a few clues of where to look for more records.



A RECENT VIEW OF OWEN SOUND

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.



THE BASTION—NANAIMO, BC

JANICE KIDWELL , #5033, BCGS POSTCARDS

The **Nanaimo Bastion**, the city's most well-known landmark, is a free-standing three-storey historical octagon-shaped blockhouse located on Front Street in the heart of the downtown and within Bastion Square Park. The Hudson's Bay Company, which at that time held a royal lease on all of what was then the Colony of Vancouver Island, built it between 1853 and 1855 to defend its coal mining operations in Nanaimo. It has been referred to as "Nanaimo's premier landmark", because of its shape and its ability to be seen from both land and sea.

It was built using the *pièce-sur-pièce* (post-and-plank) method. This entailed laying timbers across each other horizontally, with tenons cut into the ends. These tenons would then be inserted into vertical posts. This method was used partially due to the expensive cost of nails; by using the *pièce-sur-pièce* method, very few nails were needed. The logs were squared using only basic hand tools: a crosscut saw, broadaxe, adze, auger and pit saw. The wooden structure sat on a masonry foundation and was three stories tall. It is the only remaining freestanding tower structure built by the Hudson's Bay Company.

In 1891 when the Bastion faced demolition threats, the city, recognizing the historic value of the building, paid \$175 for the building and moved it across the street from its original location (the parking lot of the modern day Dorchester Hotel). In the 1970s it was moved again when the roads were being widened. On December 12, 1985, the city of Nanaimo designated it a local heritage site. During the summer of 2010, the Bastion underwent major restoration work including renewing rotting boards and adding stabilizing steel beams.

The Bastion is managed by the Nanaimo Museum and is open to visitors during the summer (May to Labour Day). It functions as a tourist information center on behalf of Tourism Nanaimo, and holds exhibits on the history of the building. During the summer months the Nanaimo Museum hosts a daily noon cannon firing which takes place close to the Bastion. Bastion Lighting Requests, for other times, can be made through the City of Nanaimo.



The Bastion is the main image on HMCS Nanaimo's ships crest. HMCS Nanaimo is a Kingston-class Coastal Defence vessel that has been serving in the Royal Canadian Navy since 1997.

FIRST FLOOR

The first floor is a representation of the sales and trade operations in the 1850s. Some of the key activities conducted in those buildings are now represented here through a display of trade goods and other Hudson's Bay Company artifacts.

SECOND FLOOR

The second floor contains examples of the Bastion's armament. Being a defensive structure, the Bastion had two six-pound carronades for short-range defense and may have stored other firearms and gunpowder reserves. As with the heavier cannons outside, their purpose was more ceremonial than defensive. The bell above the door on the outside of the second floor was used as a signaling device, principally to announce the time, as watches and clocks were uncommon.



THIRD FLOOR

The top floor provided storage for supplies and was also designated as a place of refuge for Hudson's Bay Company employees and families. Today there is a display of the many kinds of objects that miner-colonists would have brought from Britain, as well as a display of the tools and construction methods utilized in building the Bastion.

HISTORY OF THE BASTION

Nanaimo's Bastion is the last remaining wooden Hudson's Bay Company bastion in North America. Today, as the city's oldest structure and recognized Municipal Heritage Site, and having survived multiple moves, renovations and changes in ownership, the Bastion proudly stands as one of the iconic symbols of Nanaimo.

1852: The first log cabins are built in Nanaimo and the first coal mining operation is established under the direction of the Hudson's Bay Company. To protect miners and their families, a Company ship was anchored in Nanaimo's harbour, however this expense soon led to construction of the Bastion.

1853: Construction is started on the Bastion and completed in 1855.

1859: The Hudson's Bay Company's licence for exclusive trade is not renewed. Three years later the governors of the Company sell the Nanaimo lands, buildings, machinery and mineral rights. From 1863-1891: the Bastion is used intermittently by the colonial and later city governments and until 1871, is used on occasion as a temporary jail.

1900: City of Nanaimo relinquishes its interest in the Bastion.

1906: Management of the Bastion is taken over by the Native Sons of British Columbia, a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving BC history and pioneer values and traditions.

1985: The Bastion Museum Society takes over management of the Bastion.

1986: Renovation work is done on the Bastion and noon cannon firings begin.

1997: Management of the Bastion is transferred to the City of Nanaimo. The Nanaimo Museum recreates the Bastion's interior to represent how it may have looked in the 1850s.

2010: A major restoration in 2010 repaired and replaced some of the ageing parts of the Bastion, although the majority of the timbers and other components of the structure are original.

HERITAGE VALUE

Nanaimo's oldest building and the sole reminder of the Hudson's Bay Company's singular coal mining venture, the Bastion is the physical evidence of the community's earliest European social and economic development.

The Bastion, built between 1853-1855, is the only known remaining freestanding tower structure built by the Hudson's Bay Company and is a unique example of a defense fortification built by a company that played a major role in Canadian history.

The postcard on the previous page is a Traveltime Product, made in Vancouver Canada – Mann Lithographers Ltd. circa 1960. There is neither a message nor a stamp on the back.



References

<https://nanaimomuseum.ca/exhibits-collections/the-bastion/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nanaimo_Bastion

QUEEN ELIZABETH II AND KING CHARLES III

by Coco Aders-Weremczuk, President,
UELAC Vancouver Branch



This has been a very strange summer. Much has happened in our own personal lives, around the world, and now that autumn is upon us, we have experienced the loss of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The majority of our membership have only known one monarch, her way of ruling and her impressive way of making the people feel important. I know for a fact that we do have members who remember her father, King George VI. The time ahead of us must be doubly strange for them.



For my family, September 19, 2022 marked the 245th anniversary of the First Battle of Saratoga, also known as the Battle of Freeman's Farm. Freeman was my 5th great uncle. My 5th great grandfather, John Burley, though a Quaker, who should not have been fighting on the field, died "defending the crown", that fateful day. It is further emotional that Queen Elizabeth II, the 3rd great granddaughter of the king our ancestors fought for, King George III, was laid to rest on that significant anniversary. We are now looking at a new generation of monarchy. The reign of King Charles III will bring a different style, new guidance and an approach that will encompass the new world we are living in. As he has displayed over the past few days, I am sure he will continue to honour that which was important to his mother.



I feel sorry for the family. Having to keep up the stiff upper lip publicly, they have not really had any time to grieve for the loss of a very important member of their family. Instead, they have steeled themselves and put duty before personal considerations. I'm sure Her Majesty would be very proud. Now a new era begins with King Charles III. Long live the King!



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

Chilliwack · Vancouver Island · Thompson/Okanagan area
and the Lower Mainland

Find us at www.uelac.ca/branches/





BCGS 50th Anniversary Vests and Jackets will be available for purchase for a limited time.



The two most popular items!

Email clothing@bcgs.ca

State your name and phone and you will receive an invoice to pay.

Vests: 59.97 + PST

Jackets: 74.97 + PST

Men's Sizes:

S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL, 4XL, 5XL

Ladies Sizes:

XS, S, M, L, XL, XXL, XXXL

The quality of the fabric and embroidery is fantastic. If you want the sizing chart, please email clothing@bcgs.ca.



OCTOBER

WHAT ARE YOUR MEMORIES?

SUSAN SNALAM, #4403

1. Do you have any memories of **Thanksgiving** in the past? How did you celebrate, who were you with?
2. Which **countries** have you traveled to for work or vacations and in what years? Would you go back there in the future?
3. What were your **favorite foods your mother cooked**, do you still have any of her recipes and do you use them? How has your taste in food changed over time?
4. Has **genealogy** changed your view of your family in any way?

RETURN-IT SUCCESS

While Bill was away on the cruise people were still dropping their bottles and cans off to Return-it using the BCGS account!

**TOTAL NOW:
\$2022**

**22,200
PIECES**



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!

WHAT'S ONLINE?



Link to BCGS
What's Up

Click on the link to the left to visit the BCGS 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!



LEGACY FAMILY TREE WEBINARS

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.

Explore more than 125 years of BC's heritage, Free Online access for anyone in BC

Access

“The Province” (1894 - 2010),
“The Times-Colonist” (1884-2010),
“The Vancouver Sun” (1912-2010).

Access Here:

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

WHAT'S IN-PERSON?

FAMILY HISTORY DNA CHAT

October 14 & 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

GENEALOGY ORIENTATION

Saturdays, October 1 and October 29
10:30 - 11:30 am

In-person FREE program at Surrey Library's Cloverdale Branch. Get started! Learn to use one of the largest collections of family history materials in western Canada. Our orientation will show you what we have to offer - books, journals, magazines, microfilms, and online resources - to help you with your family history research.

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

WRITING YOUR MEMOIRS

FREE



Join us for this two-part, hands-on writing workshop.

Presented by Sharon Syrette—author, editor, community historian, genealogist, lifetime learner and educator.



SURREY LIBRARIES: FAMILY HISTORY
Finding your roots. Telling your story.

PART 1

THU, OCT 13

1-3:30pm at Cloverdale branch

PART 2

THU, OCT 27

1-3:30pm at Cloverdale branch

Registration for both parts is required.



Email to register:
familyhistory@surrey.ca

Cloverdale branch
5642 176A St
604-598-7327

surreylibraries.ca



SURREY LIBRARIES
discover-connect-inspire

TO REGISTER EMAIL FAMILYHISTORY@SURREY.CA

ALASKA CRUISE

BCGS 50TH ANNIVERSARY CRUISE RECAP

SHARON CLAYTON, #5332

Good News - everyone in our BCGS Cruise Group passed their Rapid Antigen Tests, so we ALL got to board MS Koningsdam on Saturday, September 17th.

I foolishly put my passport and Holland America boarding pass inside a binder that I handed to another team member while I fumbled with my phone. That mistake resulted in my documents going through security without me! Thanks to the level heads of the other members of the Cruise Team, and a lot of help from the Cruise Ship Terminal's security staff, I was able to board the ship with the rest of the team. From now on, I'll try to remember to keep my travel documents firmly attached to my body!

We're grateful that we got to see sights that we probably would never have seen without boarding an Alaska-bound cruise ship. We thoroughly enjoyed two jam-packed Sea Days of learning about genealogy and genetic genealogy from **Blaine Bettinger**. Holland America's dining options left nothing to be desired, and the staff was unfailingly attentive, helpful and friendly.

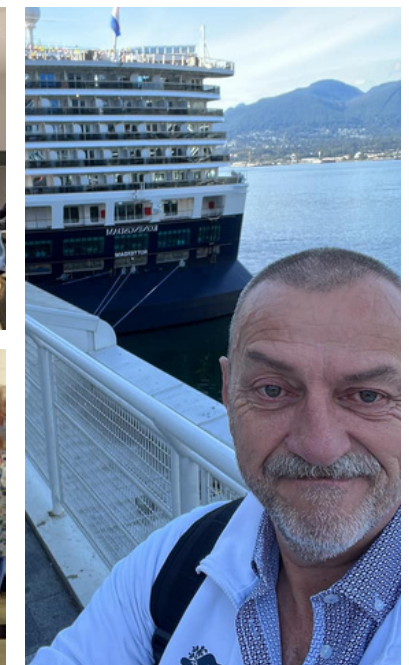
Bill and I are feeling fulfilled after our amazing Alaskan adventure. We appreciated meeting some new genealogy buddies and having time to strengthen our **"love of learning"** bonds with BCGS friends we've known for years.

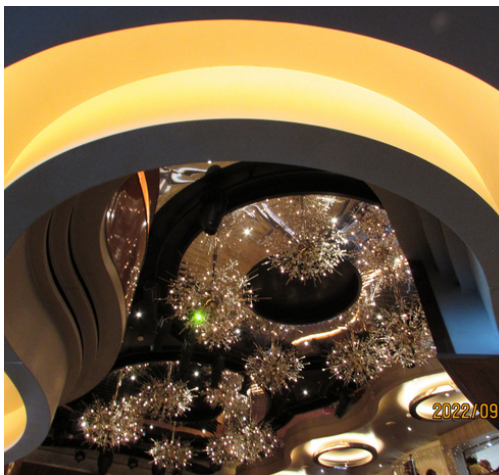
Although some people in our group tested positive for Covid after arriving home (including my husband), Bill and I are both glad we overcame our pre-cruise apprehensions. We would have missed some great adventures and happy times if we'd stayed home.

Please enjoy the photos and short stories on the following pages - they include highlights from our group's experiences.

CRUISE TEAM:

SHARON CLAYTON, SUE SULLIVAN, TERRY HARTLEY, MARIAN WIGHT, TERRI MACKENZIE, JACQUELINE PENNEY, CLAIRE BELZER

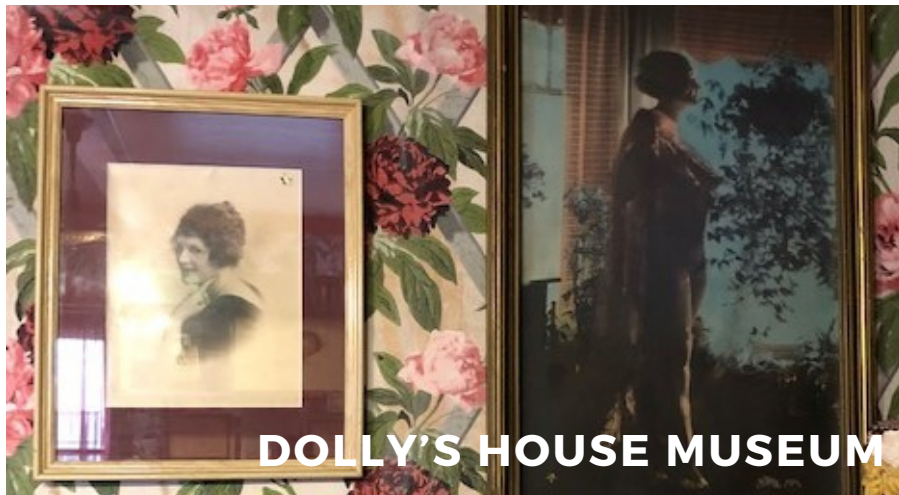




WM SEWARD TOTEM POLE

MARIAN WIGHT

I took the tram tour in Ketchikan that went to the Saxman Native Village totem pole site. Our tour guide, Kati, was excellent. She explained that totem poles depict events, memorials, welcoming and ridicule. My favourite pole was that of William Seward who negotiated the purchase of Alaska from Russia in 1867. In 1869, he was welcomed by the Tlingit, who held a potlatch to honour him. Their expectation was that he would return to Alaska and hold a ceremony to reciprocate. Seward never returned to Alaska. When the Tlingit realized that he was not coming back, they carved the William Seward “shame” totem pole.



DOLLY'S HOUSE MUSEUM

MEG MCLAUGHLIN

Robert told us Creek Street was a place we had to see in Ketchikan. That's where we headed as soon as we left the ship. It was a street beside a creek filled with old houses turned into stores. The one building remaining as a house was Dolly's House Museum. We paid the \$10 entrance fee and stepped into the brothel where Dolly had run her business until the 1950s. Many artifacts were on display and information played on TV screens in the various rooms. She was an interesting lady and shrewd businesswoman. During prohibition she kept her customers in good health by arranging a regular supply of smuggled booze from Canada, contraband she secreted around the house. I'm sure that was only one of the things hidden in that fascinating house.



NEW FRIENDS FROM ARIZONA AND ALBERTA

RIDING THE SKAGWAY STREET CAR

MEG MCLAUGHLIN

Our day in Skagway started in the cold but we were soon out of the wind in the yellow buses of the street car tour. From our driver's garb it was apparent that this would be an historical tour. She drove us through the historical section of Skagway pointing out sites along the way, entertaining us with tales of visitors and town characters. One of those was a notorious scallywag “Soapy” Smith. The telling of his story began on the bus. Then two of the drivers teamed up to take us on a tour of the Gold Rush Cemetery. Soapy ended up in a plot outside its boundary after a shootout, an event reenacted in dramatic detail by our enthusiastic guide.



GREAT SMILE!



MENDENHALL GLACIER FLOAT TRIP

TERRY HARTLEY



HELICOPTER TRIP

BILL CLAYTON

Our trip started just north of Alaska's capital city, Juneau where I, 3 other passengers and the pilot boarded the Airbus AS350 helicopter N198AE. We headed northeast of the airport to the Taku glacier, which is part of the Juneau Icefield. After showing us the 'stream beds' of the glacier (dark stripes of rock and soil where the different streams of the glacier came together) the pilot selected a 'level' area to set down. After the engine was shut down, we all got out to walk around at about 2,500 feet above sea level.



After about 15 minutes of exploring the crevices, sinkholes and surface streams, we all loaded back into the chopper and headed south around a mountain ridge to view and land on the much larger Mendenhall Glacier. After exploring the glacier on foot and picking up rock samples, we headed back towards Juneau Airport. The return trip allowed us to see lots of mountain goats, with young goats, feeding on the very steep mountain sides.

We're stuck. The front end of the orange, inflatable river raft is perched on a jagged boulder as the rushing rapids splash and swirl around us. Josh, our guide, tip-toes along the outer edges of the raft like a ballerina in latex boots, and begins bouncing and pulling on the boat-front to free us. I listen to the rubber moaning against the rock and wonder if we might soon capsize into the white silt of the glacial Mendenhall River.

How did I get on this raft? I had been chatting on the river shore with a muscular woman from Ohio, when a guide approached and announced to the small group assembled there, "Ah, here my rowers." I looked around to see that a nearby raft was set up with eight paddles, whereas all the other rafts were to be maneuvered solely by a guide acting as oarsman. Most of my group had requested a paddle raft, keen on navigating past the Mendenhall Glacier and then running the river rapids. While this had not been my intention, perhaps I could channel my voyageur ancestors and their spirit of adventure.

Our guide finally releases us from the grasp of the river rock and directs us to plunge our paddles forward. The raft spins like a top. We ride backwards, then frontwards, and then bounce downstream, the polar water soaking our faces on the ride to the pool below. The rest of the rafting trip, past the Tongass National Forest, will be more leisurely. We soon spot two bald eagles on the foreshore. It's amazing how portly they appear, given their eagle-eyes are unable to spot river prey beneath the slush. We paddle past junkyard alley, marvelling at auto scraps reinforcing the river bank. Wind-swept piles of gnarled branches and wooden wreckage carve natural sculptures for our enjoyment. These structures are protected by law despite the creation of an obstacle course for watercraft.

After five miles of paddling, our journey comes to an end and we wobble out of the boat, climbing unsteadily up the rise of the riverbank. Finding a bench seat, we quickly shed our damp gear, tossing off life jackets, toques, gloves, yellow overalls, and rubber boots. We can now dry our wet butts, and nibble on cheese, crackers, and tangy reindeer sausage, while a cup of cinnamon-infused apple cider warms our hands and delivers a calming aroma.







TRACY ARM FJORD GLACIER CATAMARAN CRUISE

CHRISTINE MANZER

Along with 145 people from the Holland America ms Koningsdam I spent 5 hours with close-up views of the Sawyer Glaciers. The Captain made many detours and stops and the naturalist's information was so helpful. We rejoined the ship in Juneau Alaska.



WHITE PASS & YUKON ROUTE RAILWAY ADVENTURE

BILL CLAYTON

Along with a few hundred other cruise ship passengers, we boarded the last excursion of the day, heading north along the way so many thousands of (mostly) men headed on their way to the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897. There were about 10 passenger cars being pulled up the steep grade to the US-Canada border by a large diesel electric engine. While there are great views out both sides of the passenger cars, the bonus for those who braved the cooler air outside were the open air platforms at both ends of each car.

Although this passenger train does travel into the Yukon, it loops back into Alaska without stopping, avoiding Customs in both countries. By the time the train turns around to go back down hill, over 20 miles from its starting point it has climbed to 2888 feet above sea level. At the 18.6 mile point, a modern bridge has replaced the 215 foot-high-structure that, in 1901, was the tallest railroad bridge of its kind. The original bridge was retired in 1969, but in 1994, it was designated an International Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, in good company with the Statue of Liberty, the Eiffel Tower and the Panama Canal.



WILDERNESS AND SEAFOOD FEAST

HEATHER GOEBEL &
DENNIS MAC LEOD

After a great half-hour narrated bus ride, we arrived at the Clover Pass Resort, where we were greeted by sea lions as we boarded a small observation boat. The pilot took us to an island where eagles nested. He threw a frozen fish into the water and an eagle dove down, snatched up the fish and took it to a rock to eat. We saw oyster farms, a seal colony, and a US Navy sonar test station. We finally reached the remote Silver King fishing lodge island, where one may stay for \$2100 a week, with meals and equipment included. We then traveled on a boardwalk, through the bogs of the Tongass Temperate Rainforest, to the largest western red cedar in the country. Along the boardwalk, my husband Dennis Mac Leod photographed a commissioned sculpture of an octopus, made by a fisherman using a chain saw. The fisherman barter his chain saw sculpting skills and has made numerous statues!

We then enjoyed (Heather's favorite part) a seafood boil, with lovely little potatoes, corn, garlic, crab, shrimp, mussels, GREAT clams, topped off by homemade chocolate chip cookies. So glad we were able to take this excursion.

GEO-CACHING IN JUNEAU

CLAIRE BELZER

When I got to Juneau, Alaska I went on an excursion not listed on the ship. I am a Geocacher, so I took Sue with me and went ashore to check out two **Adventure Labs**.

Juneau What? You're in Alaska! Took us to five locations—Commercial Fisherman's Memorial, Patsy Ann, Windfall Fisherman—the Bear statue, Alaska State Capitol Building and Governors Mansion. Along the way we read info on these places and answered questions. On the way to the Governors Mansion we stopped to see the bear down the hill from a walkway. We did the other Adventure Lab as well – **Alaska's Capital City Art Walk**. Then we went to the fabric store for some shopping therapy.

I also did **Adventure Labs** in Skagway and Ketchikan.

When we were in Glacier Bay there were 4 Earthcaches for me to work on. I needed pictures and information on the current condition of the Glaciers.

I so enjoy having my hobby that takes me to places I would not go to otherwise, and learn about people and places.

KETCHIKAN DUCK BUS/BOAT TOUR

SHARON CLAYTON

One of the first things we saw, as our Duck Bus/Boat left the cruise ship terminal's parking lot, was an arch that said, "**Welcome to Alaska's 1st City – The Salmon Capital of the World**". Our tour guides' "**Quack me Up**" jokes, ducky noisemakers and teeny tiny duck prizes added extra fun to our excursion.

Our tour took us very near the salmon ladder on Ketchikan Creek, past Whale Park and infamous Creek Street, where Dolly Arthur, born in 1888, purchased a home, now called "**Dolly's House Museum**", which doubled as a brothel.

When Ketchikan workers were earning only \$1 a day, Dolly charged each of her customers \$3. She was able to pay for her \$800 house in only two weeks. Our Tour Guide Krissa told us that while single men openly used the boardwalk through the bordellos, married men used the more discreet "**Married Man's Trail**" through the woods.

Keith, our Duck Bus driver, floated us through the Tongass Narrows Harbour, where, among the fishing and pleasure boats, we spotted a lone bald eagle perching low enough to give us a close-up view. Keith spotted three sea lions, lazily floating near the surface, and got us close enough to us to watch them basking in the sunshine. Krissa told us we were lucky – until that day, sea lions had not been spotted in the harbour during this tourist season.

Wish we'd made time for a longer visit in Ketchikan... its brightly painted buildings were a treat for my colour-loving eyes.





Contact
Robert@travelwithrobert.ca
 or call 604-401-0484



Find Your Roots On The River—get used to that phrase - you will hear it quite a bit in the coming months.

As some of you already know, due to operational and contractual agreements, we have changed the date of the River Cruise to **October 17-24, 2024**, using **AMA Waterways** beautiful ship, the **AmaLucia**.

This will give us a little time to create the perfect Conference at Sea, ok River—and also ok *not* a Conference but a **Gathering of Genealogists Together on the Rhine River in Europe**.

BONUS: Many of the Solo-Travellers will have time to find a Cabin Mate!

We said we were going to SURPRIZE you... not only are we going to prepare an off-ship presentation for you but **here is the best surprise...**



FIND YOUR ROOTS ON THE RIVER

Blaine has invited Judy Russell as a Guest Speaker and she will bring her own brand of expertise to the River.

How can we go wrong with all of this knowledge on one Ship!

BCGS Members and everyone on the BCGS Anniversary Cruise will receive first dibs on cabins, with a Non-refundable Deposit of \$600 per person until October 31st, when we will open up the floodgates to all of Blaine and Judy's followers.

EARLY BOOKING BONUS SAVE \$500 PP UNTIL DEC 31/2022



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



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

Introductory DNA COFFEE CHAT

Monday, October 3rd, 1 to 3 pm

Monday, November 7th, 1 to 3 pm

RSVP Sharon Clayton

sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



ADVANCED DNA COFFEE CHAT

Tuesday, October 18th, 7 to 9 pm

With Terry Hartley, Jim Graham & Kathleen Graham

RSVP Terry Hartley terrhart1@gmail.com



GOING BEYOND BASICS: CHINESE

GENEALOGY COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, October 6, 10 to 11 am

RSVP Linda Yip

hello@past-presence.com



INDIGENOUS COFFEE CHAT

Tuesday, October 25th, 10:30 to Noon

With Aboriginal Genealogy Assoc.

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ATLANTIC CANADA COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, October 13th, 7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



IRELAND COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, October 27, 7 to 9 pm

Thursday, December 1, 7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY &

Parental Puzzles (NPE) COFFEE CHATS

Monday, October 17th, 1 to 3 pm

Monday, November 21st, 1 to 3 pm

RSVP Sharon Clayton

sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



ENGLAND COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, NOVEMBER 3, 7 to 9 pm

"Show and Tell" With Ann Buchanan

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



PRAIRIES COFFEE CHAT

Thursday, NOVEMBER 17, 7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca