



# BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**GENEALOGY NEWS - ABOUT OUR MEMBERS - FOR OUR MEMBERS**

July 1, 2020

Volume 5, Issue 7

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**Bill Clayton, BCGS President** [president@bcgs.ca](mailto:president@bcgs.ca)

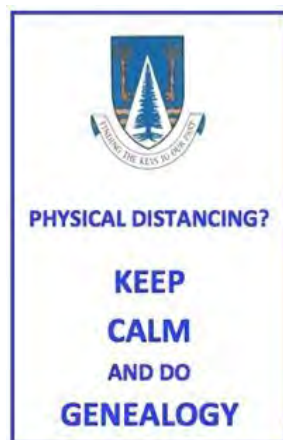
For a society whose members are supposed to be maintaining their distance, we had a lot of contact, averaging one meeting via Zoom every four days during June. Our June 10<sup>th</sup> Members' Meeting attracted 75 people. And this is supposed to be the slow time of the year! Congratulations, BCGSers for staying involved.

Congratulations to our Website Team, who have created an exciting, information-filled and user-friendly website. The website team has done a fantastic job - now that our website is 'live', we all need to explore it to find the site's new discoveries.

Thanks to BCGS volunteer Robert Holland, electronic journals from almost 100 affiliated societies are being uploaded to the website on a regular basis.

Some of Canada's genealogy associations are cautiously starting to open their libraries to a limited number of members. When we get a green(ish) light from Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC's Provincial Health Officer, we will let everyone know when and how we will be opening the doors of our BCGS Genealogical Library.

In the meantime, stay distant and safe. I look forward to seeing some of you via Zoom at our BCGS Members' Meeting on July 8th.



## THE NEXT BCGS MEMBERS' MEETING

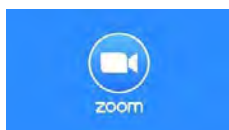


**will take place on  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 8th**

**Via ZOOM**

See page 9 for details  
The JULY meeting celebrates

**CANADA DAY**



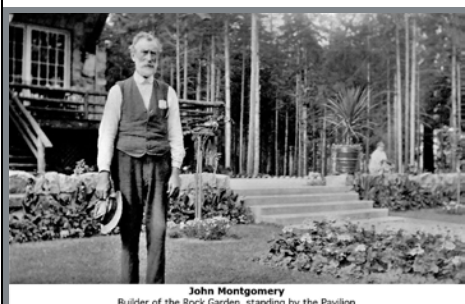
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Check our website [www.bcgs.ca](http://www.bcgs.ca) for more detail about our Society

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

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







BCGS  
July 2020

# SUMMER STAYCATION

## Day Trips in the LOWER MAINLAND

Happy  
JULY 1ST



Although our Province is "open for travel" within BC, many people are opting for summer day trips. Other than the obvious Stanley Park and Capilano Suspension Bridge, here are a few other ideas for summer fun.

1. Sea to Sky Gondola 
2. Bowen Island 
3. Lighthouse/Whytecliffe Park 
4. Hiking or Kayaking in Deep Cove 
5. Gibsons/Sechelt on the Sunshine Coast 
6. Squamish Train Museum 
7. Vancouver Harbour Cruise Tour 
8. Wine Tasting Tour in Langley 
9. Steveston Fisherman's Wharf 
10. Cultus Lake Waterpark and Mini-Golf 
11. Go Cemetery Searching 
12. White Rock Beach, Pier, and Boardwalk 
13. Burnaby Lake Park 

Whatever you do, have a

**Sizzling Summer !!**



Photos and poster by June Gauntley, member #5112



# MESSAGE FROM THE BCGS WEBSITE TEAM



## The New Website is Live!!!

We are pleased to announce the launch of our new BCGS website.

We hope you enjoy browsing the enhanced content.

There will be more to come.

You can access the site at

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

BCGS paid members can log in to access the “Member Resources” areas as follows:

*Username* – the email address you use with the BCGS

*Password* - the letters bcgs plus your member number (all lower case with no spaces)

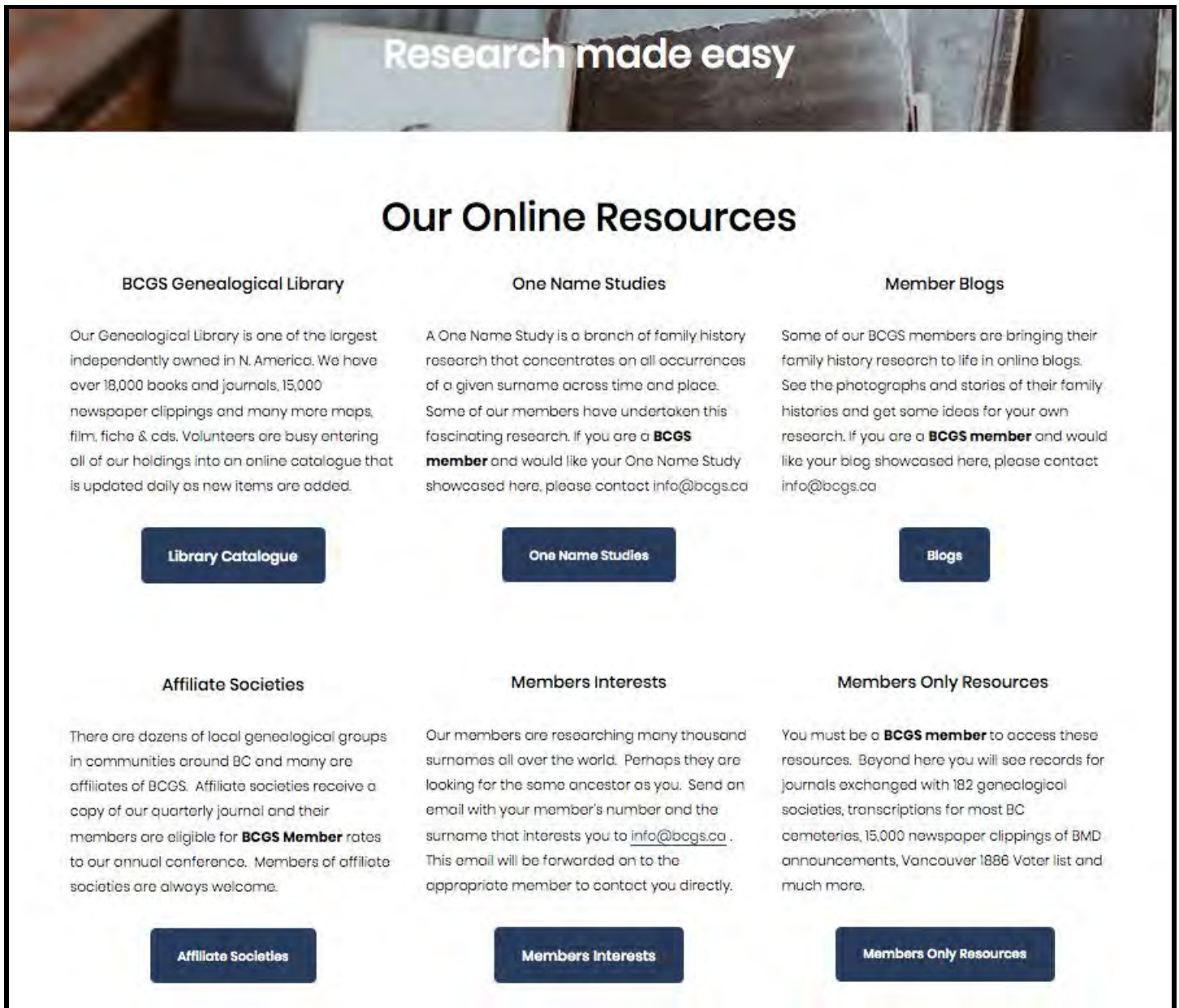
Please contact [webmaster@bcgs.ca](mailto:webmaster@bcgs.ca) with any questions, comments or for login assistance.



## CALLING ALL MEMBERS with WEBSITES, BLOGS, and ONE NAME STUDIES

The BCGS website is completely revamped and modernized. The website committee has been working hard on this project over the past year and the site is now launched.

In "Our Online Resources" section, there is a strong focus on BCGS members. We invite members to let Ann Buchanan [ibbotsonab@gmail.com](mailto:ibbotsonab@gmail.com) know if you have a **website, blog, or one-name study** that you would like to have linked to this site. Below is what Our Online Resources portal looks like.



**Research made easy**

## Our Online Resources

BCGS Genealogical Library	One Name Studies	Member Blogs
Our Genealogical Library is one of the largest independently owned in N. America. We have over 18,000 books and journals, 15,000 newspaper clippings and many more maps, film, fiche & cds. Volunteers are busy entering all of our holdings into an online catalogue that is updated daily as new items are added.	A One Name Study is a branch of family history research that concentrates on all occurrences of a given surname across time and place. Some of our members have undertaken this fascinating research. If you are a <b>BCGS member</b> and would like your One Name Study showcased here, please contact <a href="mailto:info@bcgs.ca">info@bcgs.ca</a>	Some of our BCGS members are bringing their family history research to life in online blogs. See the photographs and stories of their family histories and get some ideas for your own research. If you are a <b>BCGS member</b> and would like your blog showcased here, please contact <a href="mailto:info@bcgs.ca">info@bcgs.ca</a>
<a href="#">Library Catalogue</a>	<a href="#">One Name Studies</a>	<a href="#">Blogs</a>
Affiliate Societies	Members Interests	Members Only Resources
There are dozens of local genealogical groups in communities around BC and many are affiliates of BCGS. Affiliate societies receive a copy of our quarterly journal and their members are eligible for <b>BCGS Member</b> rates to our annual conference. Members of affiliate societies are always welcome.	Our members are researching many thousand surnames all over the world. Perhaps they are looking for the same ancestor as you. Send an email with your member's number and the surname that interests you to <a href="mailto:info@bcgs.ca">info@bcgs.ca</a> . This email will be forwarded on to the appropriate member to contact you directly.	You must be a <b>BCGS member</b> to access these resources. Beyond here you will see records for journals exchanged with 182 genealogical societies, transcriptions for most BC cemeteries, 15,000 newspaper clippings of BMD announcements, Vancouver 1886 Voter list and much more.
<a href="#">Affiliate Societies</a>	<a href="#">Members Interests</a>	<a href="#">Members Only Resources</a>



# MESSAGE FROM THE BCGS eJOURNAL EDITOR

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## Lynne Fletcher, BCGS eJournal Editor

### eJournal News

Now that we're all cleaning and organizing our files, I have a special request. Do you have an orphan picture that was passed along to you from a relative? It's an orphan picture, as it has no name or date or place taken written on the back, and none of the family seems to know who this person in the picture is. Likely, it was passed along to you as you are known in your family as 'the wizard', the one who remembers everyone's name, birth date, place of residence, years in service, etc.

Did you finally puzzle out the name of this person? Perhaps you used a tip from a seminar, or an idea that you found in a newsletter, or just your lucky magnifying glass. Could you tell us how you found the answer, and a bit about the mystery person, too?

Please send your story with tips and picture to [Journal@bcgs.ca](mailto:Journal@bcgs.ca)



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## BCGS GENBLASTS

The BCGS Communications Team has felt it necessary to develop a way to keep in touch with our members, past, present and (hopefully) future, by sending a weekly email entitled *BCGS GenBlast* each Saturday.

Your BCGS team has been checking through our many genealogical connections and various postings online to bring you research news from the genealogy world.

And, of course, news from the BCGS - especially about our new website - see page 4 - and activities by our members, which crop up throughout the weeks and which are more timely than our monthly Newsletter permits.

To date, we have sent out four GenBlasts with more in the offing for the coming weeks and months.

Keep your eye out for these weekly emails in your inbox. There may be something that just "hits the spot" for your 'stay at home' research project.

My thanks to our team, **Susan Snalam** (*below centre*) and **Judy Galpin** (*below right*), who prepare and email the BCGS GenBlasts.



**Judith Ueland:** BCGS Communications



# BCGS POSTCARD COLLECTION

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## POSTCARDS OF THE MONTH

The Story Behind a Picture Postcard - July 2020

Janice Kidwell, BCGS member #5033

### ST. PAUL'S CHURCH SALT SPRING ISLAND, BC

St. Paul's was founded in 1878 by Father Gustave Donckele, the first Catholic priest to the Gulf Island. Before the church was built, he used to row to Salt Spring from the mission at Cowichan to say mass in parishioners' homes. Under his direction, St. Paul's Church was built between 1880 and 1885 on land donated by Horace John Shepherd, a non-Catholic. The Hawaiian Catholic community did the majority of the construction along with assistance from the Cowichan people and a number of Fulford Valley residents. The original doors, bell and windows were brought over from the Butter Church in Cowichan Bay by First Nations, first by dugout canoe to Burgoyne Bay and then by an ox-drawn stone-boat through the valley. St. Paul's was consecrated by Bishop J. B. Brondel on May 10 in 1885. St. Paul's is the first landmark one sees as the ferry nears Fulford Harbour.



For historical images of St. Paul's, follow this link to the **Salt Spring Archives**:

<http://saltspringarchives.com/stpaul/index.htm>

For more information, still images, records and documents follow this link to the **B.C. Archives Collection**:

<https://search-bcarchives.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/opening-of-st-pauls-catholic-church-fulford-harbour-salt-spring-island>

Published by: *Ann's Island Photography, 4813 Townsend Drive, Victoria, BC V8Z 5P2*

Email: [ann.alan.aip@gmail.com](mailto:ann.alan.aip@gmail.com) Phone 250 727 2657

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## MEMBERSHIP

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### NEW MEMBERS of the BCGS

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

5786 Karen MORROW of Winnipeg, MB

5787 Barbara BOWMAN of West Kelowna, BC

5788 Tanya BERGQUIST of Bawlf, AB



## BCGS GIFT CERTIFICATE

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

If you would like to purchase a gift certificate, please contact Eunice Robinson at [eunice@genbug.ca](mailto:eunice@genbug.ca)



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## YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES **FREE ACCESS** to the BCGS RESEARCH TEAM

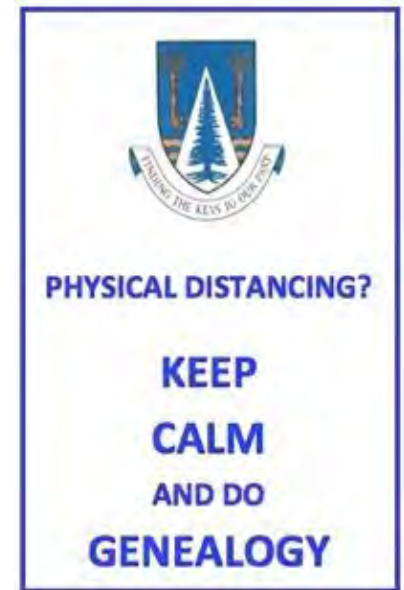


### Ann Buchanan, BCGS Research Co-ordinator

Ann tells us that despite the Covid-19 restrictions, the BCGS Research Team can still search the Clippings Index, Cemetery Recordings, Vancouver Sun Newspapers - 1999 to 2012 obituaries, and various other databases which BCGS has digitally produced.

**If you are a member of the BCGS**, email Ann with your queries at [queryrequest@bcgs.ca](mailto:queryrequest@bcgs.ca). Our BC Research volunteers will be happy to assist you in any way they can and there is no charge for this service. If your request is complicated and time consuming, BC Research may ask you for a small donation. A non-member is charged specific fees based on what they are asking.

The BCGS Genealogical Library has nearly 18,000 books, over 12,000 newspaper clippings, and many film, CD, and computerized databases. The library catalogue is available online at <https://20575.rmwebopac.com/> to help you prepare for your next visit to the library.



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## American Ancestors Website - Special Access for BCGS Members - Until July 31st

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BCGS currently has a subscription to the American Ancestors (New England Historical Genealogical Society) website, which includes the AA Members Only section. Our subscription is set to expire **31 July** and there are no plans to renew.



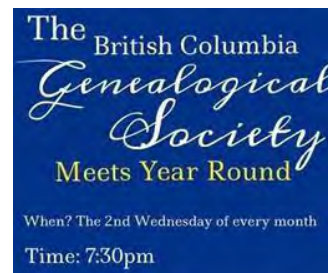
Normally, the Members Only section of the American Ancestors website could only be accessed from the BCGS library. However, because of Covid-19, American Ancestors has created a unique log-in for all our members so that this digital material can be accessed from home.

For those wishing to access the American Ancestors site, please e-mail [treasurer@bcgs.ca](mailto:treasurer@bcgs.ca) with your **BCGS member number** to receive access information.



# BCGS MEMBERS' MEETINGS

News about upcoming meetings as well as previous meetings



Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.  
They are currently taking place on line via Zoom.

## THE NEXT MEETING is WEDNESDAY, JULY 8th 2020

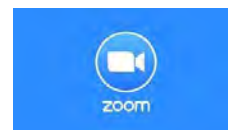
### WEBINAR: SEARCHES of the NATIONAL REGISTRATION FILE of 1940

To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the JULY MEETING will be held via ZOOM.

All BCGS members will receive an email with information on how to join in.

#### ABOUT the WEDNESDAY, JULY 8th BCGS MEMBERS' MEETING via ZOOM

- Both the May and June Members' Meetings via Zoom were well attended; therefore, we will continue with this program for the July meeting.
- An invitation from the BCGS to the July meeting using Zoom will be sent to members, so watch your inbox for more details about the website address, meeting number and password.
- If you don't receive the email by July 7th, please contact the editors of this Newsletter at [newsletter@bcgs.ca](mailto:newsletter@bcgs.ca)
- Each member will need a 'free' Zoom account to participate.
- The meeting will follow the usual format for in-person meetings. There will be some time for a Q&A session.
- For the Education portion of the meeting, **Celia Lewis** will present the **National Registration File of 1940** which resulted from the compulsory registration of all persons, 16 years of age or older, in the period from 1940 to 1946.
- A handout will be available on the BCGS website - [bcgs.ca](http://bcgs.ca) - a few days prior to the meeting in the Member Resources section.



## AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2020

All group meetings are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

We will resume when we are allowed by our medical professionals.

In the meantime, join us via Zoom (see above).



# LOOKING BACK at the JUNE MEETING

The **SECOND BCGS Members' Meeting via Zoom** was held on Wednesday, JUNE 10<sup>th</sup> at our usual meeting time of 7:30. Over 74 members attended, a number rarely reached at our in-person meetings at the Church Hall in Burnaby. Some of our members were joined by others in their household at various times. What a pleasant state of affairs to be able to include the others in our 'bubbles'.



Our team leaders gave updates regarding the status of the Library, as well as our new website and the Member Resources section of the website. The Zoom format appears to be less formal than our regular meetings and members were able to ask and receive answers to questions easily. It is a cheerful meeting venue. There is also a chat box which is useful for helpful suggestions.





## LOOKING BACK at the JUNE MEETING, cont'd

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Screenshots of those attending were taken during the early part of the evening. By some peculiar technological twist, some of our members are shown twice. So many attended we had to take three pictures and the pictures within the pages moved around according to who was speaking at the moment. At least, that is one explanation.

Following the general meeting, a webinar was shown by Celia Lewis. The webinar chosen was most instructive and gave some of us insight into a research area not easily made use of in previous searches. See below for information on how to view the webinar again and obtain the handout.

In all, a successful and enjoyable meeting. Thanks to all who signed in. And to those who were unable to be there this time, we hope you can join us in July.

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### **CELIA LEWIS - Member #5183, BCGS Webinar Coordinator**

#### **EARLY CHURCH RECORDS IN ENGLAND - HANDOUTS AND REVIEWING INSTRUCTIONS**

At our Members' Meeting in June via Zoom, we watched a 30 minute FamilySearch webinar on early Church Records in England. If you missed it, or wonder how and where to download the highly recommended handouts - 2 of them - here's a link. SCROLL down to "Past Webinars and Handouts", scroll down further to "British Webinars and Handouts", and finally, scroll down to "2018 Church of England Church Records".

To watch the webinar, click on "Recording." And then download the two handouts to your computer and/or print them out. They're excellent!

Family History Library Classes and Webinars

[Jump to navigation/Jump to search \*Family History Library\*](#)

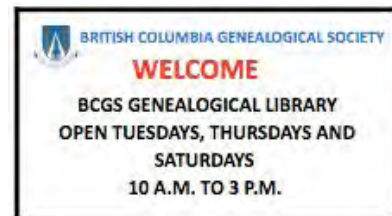
Family History Library Classes and Webinar

British Isles Research Webinars and Handouts

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Library\\_Classes\\_and\\_Webinars?fbclid=IwAR2b79i7cNxjkumigXdJg5ttNkHp4wYuZYGz7wbOMNp4jtCSzjVD4k8LbWU](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars?fbclid=IwAR2b79i7cNxjkumigXdJg5ttNkHp4wYuZYGz7wbOMNp4jtCSzjVD4k8LbWU)

# BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

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



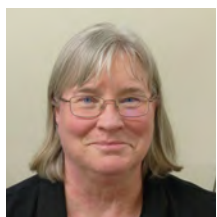
## BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Unit 211, 12837 – 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey, BC

Normally open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed until further notice.

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

## NEWS from the LIBRARY STACKS



**Corrine Jubb, Library Administrator**

Check out the library and its catalogue on the new BCGS website <https://www.bcgs.ca/>

When you choose *Library Catalogue*, your view changes to the search page <https://20575.rmwebopac.com/>. An interesting feature is the **rotating group of books** at the bottom of the screen; titles are recent additions to our collection. The catalogue team is still working on adding front cover photos for books in the library.

Researchers often prepare a list of books and material before visiting a library or archive. Another feature of the new catalogue is the **book bin**. You can search for books for your topics and if you think a book might be of interest, can add it to your bin. Then you can print out the list of 'bin' books for your next research session at the library. **Note:** The book bin only stays as long as you are on the web page so remember to print your list before moving on to other areas of the website.

The BCGS Genealogical Library is still closed due to Covid-19. We look forward to the day when we reopen for researchers.

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



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



When this is all over, we are all throwing the biggest **St. Patrick's - Easter - Passover - Vaisakhi - Earth Day - Ramadan - Mother's Day - Victoria Day - Father's Day - Canada Day - August Long - Labour Day - Thanksgiving party** that anyone has ever seen!





## BCGS GENEALOGY CHATS - SOME ARE NOW TAKING PLACE via ZOOM\*

### Coffee Chats at the BCGS Genealogical Library

When the Covid-19 lockdown is over, come by the library for a chat about your research or advice on where to begin. Bring a coffee mug, a friend, your favourite resources or just bring yourself. \$2 drop-in fee. Spend the day and browse our wonderful resources.



### QUEBEC QUESTERS CHAT

2nd Saturday of each month  
**July 11 & August 8 via Zoom\***  
10 am to noon

With Linda Maitland  
[lindamaitland@telus.net](mailto:lindamaitland@telus.net)



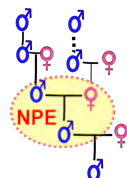
### EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

2nd Saturday of each month, 1 to 3 pm  
Next chat TBA  
With Sharon Clayton  
Please pre-register [sharonjmclayton@gmail.com](mailto:sharonjmclayton@gmail.com)



### EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

**Parental Puzzles (NPE)**  
3rd Monday of most months, 1 to 3 pm  
Next chat TBA  
With Sharon Clayton  
[sharonjmclayton@gmail.com](mailto:sharonjmclayton@gmail.com)



### EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

**Advanced DNA Research Tools**  
4th Monday of most months, 1 to 3 pm  
Next chat TBA  
With Sharon Clayton  
Please pre-register [sharonjmclayton@gmail.com](mailto:sharonjmclayton@gmail.com)



### BC GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA  
With Janet White  
[jwhite@telus.net](mailto:jwhite@telus.net)



### MAC/REUNION GROUP

3rd Wednesday of most months, 2 to 4 pm  
Next chat TBA  
With Bill Clayton  
[weclayton45@gmail.com](mailto:weclayton45@gmail.com)



### SOFTWARE for GENEALOGY

Next chat TBA  
With Angus Glass  
[liliardsedge@aol.com](mailto:liliardsedge@aol.com)



### SCOTLAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA  
With Eunice Robinson  
[eunice@genbug.ca](mailto:eunice@genbug.ca)



### ENGLAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA  
With Rob Whitlock  
[robw.whitlock@gmail.com](mailto:robw.whitlock@gmail.com)



### IRELAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA  
With Eunice Robinson  
[eunice@genbug.ca](mailto:eunice@genbug.ca)



### ATLANTIC GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA  
With Keith MacNutt  
[jkeithmacnutt@gmail.com](mailto:jkeithmacnutt@gmail.com)



### ONTARIO GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA  
With Janet White  
[jwhite@telus.net](mailto:jwhite@telus.net)



**\*Via Zoom - email the facilitator and you will be sent an invitation to join the meeting via Zoom.**



**Scotland Coffee Chat Follow-up** - The first Scotland Chat via Zoom (above) was held on June 16th and was facilitated by Eunice Robinson. Researchers were happy to be able to get together virtually, and share successes about recent research and ask for help on how they could further their research. It was a comfortable atmosphere and appreciated by all who took part. More to come.



**England Coffee Chat Follow-up - Saturday, June 20th - Rob Whitlock**

We had 15-16 people participate via Zoom, with a couple of people from outside the Lower Mainland who otherwise would not be attending because of distance, ferry rides, etc. BCGS may want to continue to carry-on with some virtual sessions just for this reason, once COVID-19 is 'sorted'. Will there ever be 'a normal' again...

The group participated in an active round table, talking about their individual research work and sharing some common websites that not everyone was aware of. Rob Whitlock reminded the group that the **UK National Archives (TNA)** <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/> was still allowing for free downloads of a range of documents.

Rob also talked about **Deceased Online** <https://www.deceasedonline.com/>, a newer site which includes details of graves mainly in the UK (such as actual cemetery registers showing burials in an

individual plot). He also recommended **FreeReg** <https://www.freereg.org.uk/>, a companion site to **FreeBMD** <https://www.freebmd.org.uk/>. This site has grown progressively to include many parish records and often is not limited to just Church of England records.

Finally, Rob mentioned the **International Society for British Genealogy and Family History** <https://www.isbgfh.com/>, which normally hosts a week-long event in Salt Lake City. The event will be virtual this year and run from October 12 - 14. It includes sessions on England, Wales and Irish records. Details of the sessions are a bit confusing, as they are being advertised as a precursor to next year's event, which they hope will take place "as per normal". Expect these will be shorter sessions perhaps more cursory in nature (less detail than would be covered in a week of content). \$99 USD for a day, \$199 USD for two days.

At the end of the session, many wanted to participate in more chats over the summer, as well as hold some case study events, where individual members would overview their challenges. More to come. [robw.whitlock@gmail.com](mailto:robw.whitlock@gmail.com)





# BCGS NEWS

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

## BCGS Special Interest Groups

These are BCGS genealogy groups that meet elsewhere

### WELSH GROUP

3rd Wednesday of most months

10:30 am to 12:30 pm

With the Vancouver Welsh Society

215 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver

(Downstairs, enter from the back of the building)

[csmythe@telus.net](mailto:csmythe@telus.net)

**Postponed until further notice**



### NEW CHAT via ZOOM\*

**Going beyond basics: Chinese genealogy**

**1st Thursday of each month, 10 - 11 am**

**Thursday, July 2 & August 6**

With Linda Yip, BCGS member and Ancestry Advisory Board of Canadian Genealogists

Are you new to Chinese genealogy and don't know where to start? Or have you been doing your family genealogy for a while and are stuck?



Come join BCGS member Linda Yip as we talk about Chinese genealogy issues, brick wall busters and the hidden gems of Chinese genealogical research. Bring your questions.

**\*Via Zoom** - email Linda Yip at [hello@past-presence.com](mailto:hello@past-presence.com) and you will be sent an invitation to join the meeting via Zoom.



**Linda Yip, BCGS member and Ancestry Canada Advisory Board member**, has been busy and productive recently with three genealogical articles and two interviews, all dealing with her great-grandfather, Yip Sang. Check these out ...

Linda's article on Sing Tao, published this week:

<https://www.singtao.ca/4329346/2020-06-24/news-不能遺忘：華裔先僑歷史+追根溯源：每個家族的故事/?variant=zh-hk>

Her article *Getting published in the Sing Tao Daily* – 24 Jun 2020:

<https://past-presence.com/2020/06/26/getting-published-in-the-sing-tao-daily-24-jun-2020/> where she presents the Sing Tao article, how to translate it, and a memory about seeing the paper at her grandparents' home every morning.

Her full piece *Yip Sang, the Patriarch – Reflections on a True Canadian Pioneer*, on AncestryCA:

<https://blogs.ancestry.ca/ancestry/>

Linda will be on CBC Radio Vancouver live on Canada Day, July 1st, 5:30 pm Pacific.

OMNI TV - the release date is not yet known.

For more on Linda's writings and research go to her blog "Past Presence" at [past-presence.com](http://past-presence.com)

Photo: On the BC ferry between Vancouver and Victoria, BC., abt. 1939-1942. (c) 2020 Chu Family Archives. Used with permission.



## BCGS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are lots of volunteer opportunities within the BCGS. Many hands make light work and ALL help is appreciated! To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the BCGS Genealogical Library is closed until further notice; however, many of our projects can easily be done at home. Here are some of them.

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

**HOLTEN NETHERLANDS CEMETERY PROJECT – Work can easily be done at home.** Are you looking for a new research project to do from home? The Holten Netherlands Cemetery Project can use your help. Please join us! Our goal is to research each of the **81 British Columbia WWII soldiers** who are buried in the Holten Cemetery in the Netherlands. What we discover will assist the Holten Canadian Cemetery Information Center fill their upcoming online database with information

that will be accessible to anyone researching the soldiers in the future. If you are interested, please email Melissa Borgerson at [melissa\\_n\\_cecil@hotmail.com](mailto:melissa_n_cecil@hotmail.com) and we will get you the name of a soldier and the info you need to get started.

**VIDEO CAMERA -** Looking for a member who has a video camera that can be borrowed so that we can video the library for insurance purposes. If you can lend us yours, please email Bill Clayton at [president@bcgs.ca](mailto:president@bcgs.ca)



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## BCGS WEBINAR COORDINATORS

Celia Lewis and Kim Kujawski were named as the **BCGS Webinar Coordinators** at the May 2020 Board of Directors Meeting. We are looking forward to some interesting and pertinent webinars from Celia and Kim.



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

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

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

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CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION



CHRIS HAY, BCGS member #3893

Chris Hay with his 2019 Certificate of Recognition and a photo of the Stanley Park Rock Garden. Hay has worked for years to have the Stanley Park Rock Garden recognized as a historic site in Vancouver, British Columbia, and nationally.

May 26, 2020 — When Chris Hay received a 2019 Certificate of Recognition from the British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF) for his invaluable efforts to have the Stanley Park Rock Garden recognized as a historic site in Vancouver, British Columbia, and nationally, he did not dream he would also receive a handwritten letter from **British Columbia Lieutenant Governor, Janet Austin**.



May 20/20

Dear Mr. Hay,

I am writing to offer my heartfelt congratulations on receiving the B.C. Historical Federation's Award of Recognition for your outstanding commitment to restoring the Stanley Park Rock Garden. What a wonderful gift you have left for all British Columbians - and our travelling visitors - to enjoy and cherish.

With best wishes and sincere appreciation,  
Janet

Government House 1405 Rockland Avenue Victoria British Columbia V8W 2Y9

May 20 /20

Dear Mr. Hay:

"I am writing to offer my heartfelt congratulations on receiving the BC Historical Federation's Award of Recognition for your outstanding commitment to restoring the Stanley Park Rock Garden. What a wonderful gift you have left for all British Columbians and our travelling visitors to enjoy and cherish.

"With best wishes and sincere appreciation, Janet "

The first public garden in Vancouver, the Stanley Park Rock Garden was laid out in 1911 by master gardener John Montgomery, and was one of Stanley Park's top attractions, but the park became neglected and gradually disappeared into the adjacent forest after the Second World War.



John Montgomery  
Builder of the Rock Garden, standing by the Pavilion



Chris Hay, great-grandson of John Montgomery, rediscovered the rock garden when he began researching his family history. A devastating windstorm in 2006 revealed lost portions of the rock garden landscape.

After years of research and lobbying by Hay, the Stanley Park Rock Garden was recognized as one of Vancouver's "Places that Matter", added to the Vancouver City Heritage Register, and listed on the Canadian Register of Historic Places.

The BC Historical Federation's Award of Recognition is awarded to individuals who have given exceptional service to their organization or community, either for a specific project or for long service in the preservation of British Columbia's history.

Sadly, due to the ongoing COVID-19 health situation, the BCHF annual conference schedule for June 2020, including the awards gala, has been cancelled. Thus, the prizes are being announced early and plans are in the works for ways to honour winners during the BCHF conference in 2021; details to be announced.

The British Columbia Historical Federation (BCHF) encourages interest in the history of British Columbia through research, presentation, and support in its role as an umbrella organization for provincial historical societies. Established in 1922, the Federation currently provides a collective voice for over 100 member societies and 24,000 individuals in the provincial not-for-profit historical sector.



*Above left: Stanley Park Rock Garden and Pavilion, @ 1920. Above right: Stanley Park Rock Garden and pavilion, @ 1930.*

More details and pictures: [Stanley Park Rock Garden • Vancouver Heritage Foundation](#)

Contacts: Aimee Greenaway - Recognition Committee, British Columbia Historical Federation - [aimee@bchistory.ca](mailto:aimee@bchistory.ca)  
Chris Hay - [chris-hay@shaw.ca](mailto:chris-hay@shaw.ca)

**Note:** Chris's article about the Stanley Park Rock Garden will appear in the September 2020 BCGS eJournal.



**A NOTE from the BCGS BOARD of DIRECTORS:** The following promotion is being offered to BCGS members who have signed up for the 2021 BCGS Alaska cruise. At this time, with the current pandemic, it is impossible to speculate on where the world will be in 2021. The organizing committee is hopeful that the cruise will proceed as scheduled or possibly be postponed past the point when a vaccine is available.

## Welcome to Exploration Central™

Why book your EXC Tours™ with  
Holland America Line?

### Quality & Service

- Our tours offer a wide range of activities with something for everyone
- Professional, local guides and independent tour operators offer exceptional guidance
- Expert advice from our EXC Tours staff on board

### Uncompromised Value

- Award-winning tours consistently rated “excellent” by our guests
- Superior quality and competitive pricing
- Priceless experiences

### Convenience & Peace of Mind

- Maximize your time ashore—go straight to the highlights you want to see without waiting, getting lost, negotiating fares or hassling with currency exchange
- Book online ahead of time or on board the ship
- Tour departure times coincide with the ship's schedule as well as other tours, enabling you to take multiple tours if desired
- Worry-free return to the ship. In the very rare event that your tour is late and the ship must leave, we will arrange at our expense to get you to the next port of call. With independently booked tours, you are responsible for rejoining the ship at the next port of call



## Which EXC Tours Are Right for You?

Choose the tours that interest you by using the icons as a general guide to the level of activity involved, and select the tours best suited to your physical capabilities. These icons will help you to interpret this brochure.



**Easy Activity:** Very light activity including short distances to walk; may include some steps.



**Moderate Activity:** Requires intermittent effort throughout, including walking medium distances over uneven surfaces and/or steps.



**Strenuous Activity:** Requires active participation, walking long distances over uneven and steep terrain or on steps. In certain instances, paddling or other non-walking activity is required and guests must be able to participate without discomfort or difficulty breathing.



**Panoramic Tours:** Specially designed for guests who enjoy a slower pace, these tours offer sightseeing mainly from the transportation vehicle, with few or no stops, and no mandatory disembarkation from the vehicle during the tour. Some modes of transportation are rarely lift-equipped and ramps may not be available, a very small amount of walking may be necessary. The pace is gentle and taking your time is encouraged.



**Limited Capacity:** The number of people able to participate in this tour is strictly limited. Reasons for limiting capacity may include the number of transportation seats available, or the need to maintain a safe ratio of guides for hikes, fishing and water activities. Tours require a minimum number of participants in order to operate.



**Meal:** This tour includes a meal—lunch on daytime tours, or dinner on evening tours.



**Snack:** This tour includes a small snack or tasting of local specialties. The snack is not a meal.

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**UPDATE:** Holland America has released its **Shore Excursion brochure** for our September 12-19, 2021 Alaska Cruise. Our travel agent suspects that our 2021 cruise might end up being fully booked because of passengers who decided to travel in 2021 after their 2020 cruises were cancelled due to Covid-19. Just in case that does happen, anyone who wants to can download a .pdf version of the excursions being offered during our cruise. A pdf version of the 60-page brochure has been posted on our 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Cruise Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/503171243562227/>



# BCGS 2020 CALENDAR - JULY 2020

## CRESCENT HOTEL, CRESCENT BEACH, BC - 1912

Image: courtesy: City of Surrey Archives. Photo construction: George Caldwell, written commentary: Sharon Clayton



Image Courtesy City of Surrey Archives  
Reference Code: F83-D-0-0-0-0-0-247

Captain Watkin Williams and his wife Elizabeth built the Crescent Hotel in 1912, on sea front property that they traded for a portion of their farm acreage. With no central heating, no insulation, and no electricity the hotel was only open from Victoria Day until Labour Day. Each room had a washstand, basin, and a jug of cold water - two indoor flush toilets and one bathtub were used communally. Each floor had a balcony and stairway to provide easy access to the beach and outdoor lavatories.

Because roads were so unreliable, the easiest way to get supplies in and out of the community was by rail or water. Until it was destroyed during a 1922 winter storm, the Crescent Hotel's pier was a vital supply link.

Crescent Hotel burned to the ground in January 1949. The lot remained empty until the City of Surrey built Beecher Place Community Centre on the site.

**Museum of Surrey - Discover Your Story** is an exhibit focusing on family history and discovery, available online from home. Featuring stories discovered by family researchers, this all-ages exhibit explores the resources available to Surrey families so they can build their own family trees.

While the museum is temporarily closed, displays and interactive elements will be shared via Facebook and Instagram for museum-goers to experience from home.

The exhibit is a collaboration between the Surrey Family History Centre, the BC Genealogical Society and Surrey Libraries - Family History.

View a [printable information sheet](#) about all three.

**Photo - the people who made it happen: Susan Sullivan (BCGS), Sara Herrington (LDS), Eunice Robinson (BCGS), Jeannie Vance (LDS) and Carmen Merrells (Cloverdale)**





More photos from the Museum of Surrey display. For more information: <https://www.surrey.ca/culture-recreation/31171.aspx>



## GENEALOGY NEWS in BC

Upcoming events and new genealogical resources in BC



### Learn more or celebrate your Loyalist ancestor(s) with involvement in the UELAC VANCOUVER BRANCH - Plans for BC Loyalist Day picnic 2020 have been cancelled.

The UELAC Vancouver Branch executive has **cancelled** our yearly picnic. The City of New Westminster was very understanding and a booking for 2021 at picnic shelter #2 in Queens Park has been placed in their calendar.

Learn more about what interests the UE members by checking our [Facebook Page](#)

### Why is Loyalist Day in July when it is in June in other parts of Canada?

Sunday 22 July was proclaimed as BC Loyalist Day in 2012 by then Hon. Lt. Gov. Stephen Point. The four Pacific Regional Branches of the UELAC will continue to celebrate BC Loyalist Day, on the closest Sunday to the 22nd July.



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



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## **A note from Vancouver Public Library**

### **Ancestry Library Edition**

New! VPL cardholders can now enjoy access to Ancestry Library Edition from home for free until **JULY 31, 2020**. A popular database for genealogical research, it includes census, baptism, marriage and military records. Visit their genealogy guide for more research help. <https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/ancestry-library-edition>



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## **An email from Surrey Libraries Family History**

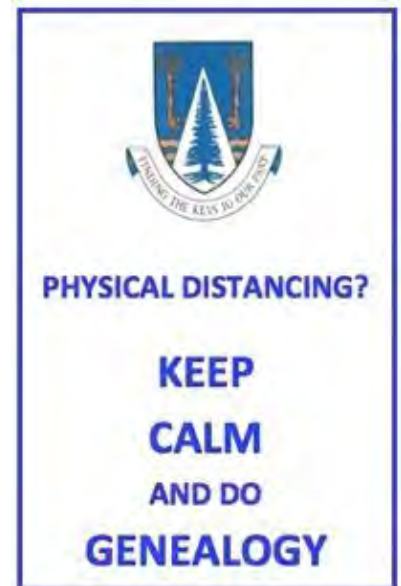
Hello everyone, The good news is that free access for you from home to our **Library Ancestry** account has again been kindly **extended to July 31, 2020**. (This is a courtesy of ProQuest and its partner Ancestry.) Remember that you need to be (a) a resident of Surrey; (b) have a Surrey Libraries card, and (c) you need to access through the Ancestry login link <https://www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history> (scroll down to middle of the page)



**We have no date for the reopening of our Family History department, and it is very possible that it won't be until early 2021.** Our family history email reference and look-up services also remain suspended until we have genealogy staff in the Cloverdale branch. I wish I had better news on this!

**If you have questions about our extended closure or wish to advocate for an earlier opening for the Family History department, please use the form on this link:** <https://www.surreylibraries.ca/contact-us>. Public demand remains a key factor for moving forward. Thank you to everyone who completed our public survey.

Best regards, Carmen Merrells | Information Services Librarian  
SURREY LIBRARIES, Cloverdale Branch, Family History Department



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## **BC Archives Reference Room to remain closed until 2021**

### **Snipped from the BC Archives Release, 26 May 2020**

We have made the decision to close the BC Archives Reference Room until 2021. During this time, we are reviewing and modifying our processes to ensure the health and well-being of all who work in and rely upon the archives. Although the Reference Room is closed, many of our services are still available online. For more information, please visit [royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/bc-archives/visitor-information](http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/bc-archives/visitor-information)

### Yip Sang, the Patriarch – Reflections on a True Canadian Pioneer

*Snipped from Linda Yip's story on Ancestry Canada blog, 26 June 2020*

<https://blogs.ancestry.ca/ancestry/>

I thought I knew my great-grandfather. I grew up in Vancouver, BC. I'm one of hundreds of the descendants of *Yip Ch'un Tien*, known to us all as *Yip Sang*. "Yip Sang," my family said, "is your great-grandfather. He had 4 wives, 19 sons and 4 daughters." Many of my elder relatives lived at the family compound at 51 E. Pender Street where Yip Sang built his main business and his home. Yip Sang was a legend. All of that is true, and yet it doesn't come close to answering the question, *Who was Yip Sang?*

### Closing of museum's research area irks archive group

*Snipped from the Times Colonist article by Mike Devlin, 5 June 2020*

<https://www.timescolonist.com/news/local/closing-of-museum-s-research-area-irks-archive-group-1.24147176>

The Royal B.C. Museum will not reopen certain areas of its building, including the B.C. Archives Reference Room, until further notice, citing the health and safety of its staff and visitors. But that timeline has been deemed too vague by the Friends of the B.C. Archives, a non-profit society whose roughly 200 members use the provincial archives for research.

### Sooke Region Museum launches online photo archive

*Snipped from Dawn Gibson's article in the Sooke News Mirror, 18 June 2020*

<https://www.sookenewsmirror.com/community/sooke-region-museum-launches-online-photo-archive/>

Take a walk down memory lane with a new photo project launched by the Sooke Region Museum. The museum has launched an online photo archive, which allows people to scroll through thousands of photos from Sooke's past.

### Deserving Poor — British Women to BC

*Snipped from John Reid's blog, Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections, 22 June 2020*

<https://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2020/06/deserving-poor-british-women-to-bc.html>

When you research war brides and start Googling it's surprising what you find. You've heard of Filles du Roi. Did you know of the much later somewhat parallel immigration to the West Coast?

### Royal BC Museum opens up thousands of digitized photos of British Columbia Indigenous communities to the public

*Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 23 June 2020*

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=32328>

The Royal BC Museum has opened up to the public 16,103 historical photographs depicting Indigenous communities from across British Columbia that were taken between the late 1800s and the 1970s.

### Archives at Selkirk College, B.C. (Kootenays)

*Snipped from Penny Allan's blog, UK to Canada Genealogy, 25 June 2020*

<http://ukcdngenealogy.blogspot.com/2020/06/archives-at-selkirk-college-bc.html>

They list their collections as: Notable Collections, Local Newspapers, Historical Mining Newspapers. Also check with the archives for collections that pertain to families who were miners in this area, in the fishing industry and as fruit growers. Local Newspapers - some of the newspapers mentioned on the Selkirk library/archives catalogue record have been digitized on the BC Historical Newspapers website.







## A quick guide to finding Canadian Census Schedules online

Snipped from Linda Yip's blog, *Past Presence*, 6 June 2020

<https://past-presence.com/2020/06/06/a-quick-guide-to-finding-canadian-census-schedules-online/>

Did you know there's a Schedule II for the 1901 Canadian census? How about the 1871 Census – did you know there were 9 schedules and nearly all of them are available? Did you know the 1861 census has schedules for buildings, agriculture, manufacturers, minerals, and fisheries and they are located after the personal censuses? If you asked, *What's a census schedule?* you've come to the right place.

## Veterans Affairs Canada adds British Home Children section to its website

Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, *Genealogy à la carte*, 11 June 2020

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=32218>

After six years of lobbying by the British Home Children Advocacy and Research Association, the story of British Home Children, along with profiles of some of the children who eventually served in one of the World Wars, are now part of Veterans Affairs Canada's website. The content also includes information about the origins of the British Home Children, memorials, and medals.

## WW2 Return from Europe

Snipped from John Reid's blog, *Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections*, 12 June 2020

<https://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2020/06/ww2-return-from-europe.html>

After the Second World War, there were lots of people who needed to travel from Europe (mainly England) to Canada. Was one, or maybe more in your family? While many were servicemen and servicewomen there were also those who had never been in Canada, most war brides, to those who had only recently made the voyage from west to east, such as those who chaperoned returning POWs from Canada.

## Introducing Loyalist Migrations

Snipped from *Borealia's* blog's article by Tim Compeau, June 2020

<https://earlycanadianhistory.ca/2020/06/08/introducing-loyalist-migrations/>

Loyalist Migrations is a collaboration between Huron University College's Community History Centre, the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada (UELAC), and Liz Sutherland at the Map and Data Centre at Western University. This will be a multi-year project that draws upon archival sources and family histories to visualize the movement of thousands of migrants, exiles, and refugees, from all walks of life, who were displaced by the American Revolution.

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## DNA GENEALOGY NEWS

Some web links to help with genetic genealogy research



### Y DNA: Step-by-Step Big Y Analysis

Snipped from Roberta Estes' blog, *DNAexplained -- Genetic Genealogy*, 30 May 2020

<https://dna-explained.com/2020/05/30/y-dna-step-by-step-big-y-analysis/>

Many males take the Big Y-700 test offered by FamilyTreeDNA, so named because testers receive the most granular haplogroup SNP results in addition to 700+ included STR marker results.



### How to Diagram a Mystery DNA Match

*Snipped from DiAnn Iamarino's blog, Fortify Your Family Tree, 9 June 2020*

<https://family-tree-advice.blogspot.com/2020/06/dna-diagram.html>

This is what I'll do when a DNA match is too abstract to make sense. One of Mom's DNA matches is driving me crazy. Mary and Mom share 250 centiMorgans. That's a lot for someone I can't identify.

### How to Add Context to DNA Matches

*Snipped from DiAnn Iamarino's blog, Fortify Your Family Tree, 26 June 2020*

<https://family-tree-advice.blogspot.com/2020/06/dna-context.html>

No. I still haven't figured out my parents' DNA connection. It's a journey, and along the way, I keep finding tools and methods to help make sense of DNA matches. After giving up on DNA triangulation, I wanted an easier way to understand my DNA matches. Here's what I did, and it's really helpful.

### Is It Possible My DNA Matches Aren't Related?

*Snipped from Diahn Southard's article in Family Tree Magazine, 25 June 2020*

<https://www.familytreemagazine.com/dna/results/matches-unrelated/>

The shared matches tool is a tool offered by all testing companies. It lets you select one DNA match, and then see a list of all DNA matches that share DNA with you, and that match.

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## GENEALOGY SEMINARS & MEETINGS NEAR & FAR

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

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### Virtual Genealogical Association announces November conference program

*Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 4 June 2020*

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=32158>

#### November 13 - 15, 2020

The Virtual Genealogical Association yesterday released the program for its annual conference, taking place November 13 to 15, 2020. Registration will open in mid-June. More than 20 presentations will be delivered by speakers from the United States, Canada, Great Britain, Ireland, and Germany.

### Celtic Connections Virtual Conference

#### 31 July - 31 August 2020

**Cohosted by** The Irish Genealogical Society International (IGSI) & The Irish Ancestral Research Association (TIARA)

#### Exciting presenters!

Tina Beaird - Fiona Fitzsimons - Maurice Gleeson - John Grenham

Pamela Guye Holland - Melanie McComb - Paul Milner - Donna Moughty

Chris Paton - David Rencher - Karen Stanbary

#### Presenting lectures on

Irish Civil, Church & Land records,

Researching Scottish & British, DNA,

Internet research, Migration research

Registration is now open <https://igsi.regfox.com/virtual-celtic-connections-conference-2020>



# MEMBERS' CORNER

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



## Patrick Keily, member #5414

### As I Recollect - *What's in a Name?*

Have you ever wondered what's in a name? Why your grandfather named your mother Martha? What uncle Buck did to earn that nickname?

Why you always thought your gg-grandmother was named Marie when she was Irish? I have, and I think it gives subtle clues about family relationships.

My father, Allan Francis Keily, was known only as Duke. He was a pretty tough customer, having boxed in the ring to pick up a few dollars during the depression. With a reputation like that, he was often challenged to a fight at dances, in taverns, or simply walking on the street. Ma said he never looked for a fight but never backed down, either. Duke was a very fitting nickname, except fighting wasn't where it came from. Pa had a brother born in 1914 who died a year later. When Pa was born in 1916, my grandmother, still mourning the loss of Myron, was extremely protective of my dad. His older brothers and sister gave him the name Duke because he was being treated like royalty. I would never have guessed.

Grandpa Jack Keily must not have liked his father, Simon. Jack left Valcartier, Quebec at age 16 and never looked back. I surmised his dislike because of the names he gave his children. He named the firstborn, a daughter, after his mother, Catherine. He then named his first son after his maternal grandfather, Edward Cassin. His next was named after his wife's brother, then Myron for no apparent reason as well as Allan.

Here is more verification of his dislike of his father - when my aunt was 17, she wrote a letter to her grandfather in Valcartier. Grandpa Jack picked up the mail, saw an

envelope from Quebec, destroyed the letter and told her to never write to his family again. It sure makes me wonder what that was about.

After years of searching, I was finally able to find another descendant of Simon and Kate Keily. Her name was Sharon Kiely Sawyer, a granddaughter of Joseph "Emmett" Kiely, grandpa's brother. Emmett and Grandpa Jack went different ways in 1893 and never communicated again. This is where it gets a bit eerie—Emmett had a granddaughter named Sharon. Jack had a granddaughter named Sharon. Emmett named Sharon's father Kenneth. I have a brother Kenneth. Sharon has a brother Patrick, I'm a Patrick. To top it off, Sharon Sawyer has a brother Allan, same spelling as my father's name. I can find no records of any of these names in our family tree, with the exception of Patrick, nor any neighbors of grandpa and Emmett by these names. Is this just a strange coincidence? I certainly could use help finding an explanation.

Finally, I mentioned in the opening about an Irish girl named Marie. Marie Colman, my gg-grandmother, was married to Edmond Keily. They lived in County Cork, Ireland. I got the name from Simon's marriage record and never gave it a thought. One day, Linda Maitland and I were working on genealogy when I mentioned Marie. "Marie?" She asked. "Why would you think her name was Marie? She's Irish." "Because", I said smugly, "I found it in the church records in Valcartier." Linda gave me that look of, "Have you always been this dumb?" and said, "The priest was French, of course he's going to write Marie. Her name was Mary!" "So what? It's just a name", I thought to myself. It's just a name. Doesn't mean anything. Nothing. Who cares...



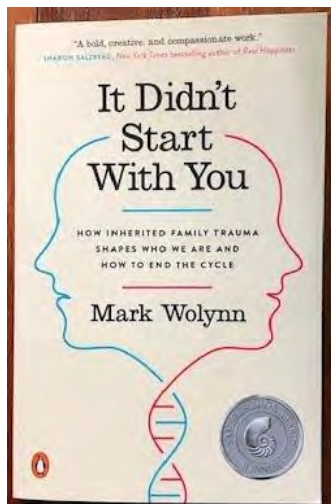




**Meg McLaughlin**, member #3847

## Looking for the Positive

What have I been doing lately? Well, when I look back it's hard to pinpoint. Lately, the days seem to blend into each other punctuated here and there with Zoom meetings, conferences and deadlines. Every once in a while, there is even a book delivered to my door, which promises a story to wile away the hours or information about interesting new ways of looking at shared heritage.



A subject which came to the fore soon after genetic genealogy was that of trauma being transmitted through generations. I find this fascinating and

eagerly await the opportunity to dive into *It Didn't Start with You*, one of those bookish deliveries.

Another genealogy-related thing I got involved in lately was through the Family Writing Studio. Here the emphasis is on using the techniques of creative non-fiction to make more readable ancestral stories. For my first attempt, I chose the Reverend Thomas Strange. He may have been born in the early 1700s but I have been able to find a lot written about his life.

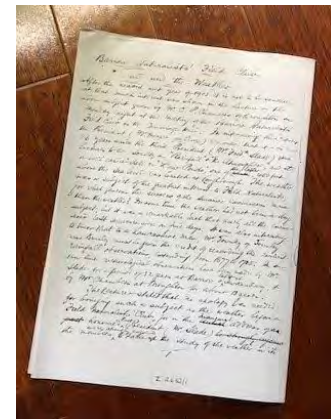


Above - Kilsby United Reform Church Nonconformist ministers seem to have been an interesting subject for a lot of writers in the past. Thankfully, those historic

writers covered different details which I found when trying to find out if Thomas' mother had remarried after his father died when Thomas was six. The name of her new husband wasn't given in any of the accounts but the *July 1808 Memoir of The Late Rev. Thomas Strange of Kilsby, Northamptonshire* said that Thomas worked for his step-father and added, "During this period, he was often literally a shepherd, and in that humble employment acquired, by attentive observation, that knowledge of clouds and weather by which he was distinguished through life."

Being a shepherd tending his flock was rather an appropriate former occupation for a minister. More than that though, I was struck by Reverend Thomas' knowledge of weather.

Through my research into his descendants, I had chanced upon a learned paper that Charles P. Chambers, a 2x great grandchild of the reverend's had written for the Barrow Naturalists' Field Club about "Climate and the Weather." That was an interesting



coincidence or was it? Above - Charles P. Chambers' weather paper

Recent literature has been about trauma passed on through the generations. But what if positive things, like a predilection to be interested in weather, are passed on as well? Although, I suppose the trauma angle is an easier sell. The negative tends to catch our attention and it's even better if a solution is offered. Then it can be a self-help book. Wouldn't it be interesting to see more written about genetics and positive traits that can be passed on through the generations to get a more balanced view? I hope that someone takes that on as we find out more about the wonderful world of genetic DNA.

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.

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

## BCGS EVENTS

To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus,  
many BCGS events are **POSTPONED** until further notice.

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July 2	Chinese Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 to 11 am
July 8	BCGS Members Meeting - via Zoom - 7:30 pm
July 11	Quebec Questers Chat - via Zoom - 10 am to noon
August 6	Chinese Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 to 11 am
August 8	Quebec Questers Chat - via Zoom - 10 am to noon
August 12	BCGS Members Meeting - via Zoom - 7:30 pm

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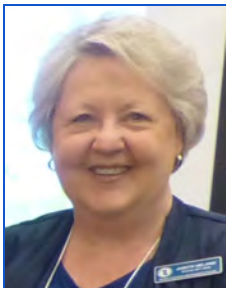


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Suggestions and comments are welcome. Please contact Judith Ueland and Linda Maitland at  
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Linda Maitland  
Director (2023)

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