



BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGY NEWS - ABOUT OUR MEMBERS - FOR OUR MEMBERS

February 1, 2020

Volume 5, Issue 2

MEMBERS' MEETING - FEBRUARY 12, 2020



EDUCATION at the FEBRUARY MEETING

Due to the uncertainty of the weather during February, the Education portion of the meeting will be slightly different. Please join us for a

Genealogical Cocktail Party

with a difference

followed by

Webinar Discussions



Place: The Danish Lutheran Church Hall, 6010 Kincaid St., Burnaby. Time: 7:30 pm. More information on page 9.

GENEALOGY COFFEE CHATS in EARLY FEBRUARY 2020

Saturday, February 1 - England Genealogy - 10 to Noon - Rob Whitlock

Saturday, February 1 - Ireland Genealogy Chat - 1 to 3 pm - Eunice Robinson

Tuesday, February 4 - Atlantic Genealogy Chat - 10 to noon - Keith MacNutt

Tuesday, February 4 - Snipping Tools for Windows 10 - 10 to noon and repeated from 1 - 3 pm - Angus Glass

See Pages 5 & 6 for all Coffee Chats and SIGs scheduled for February & March 2020

MARCH 21 and 22, 2020 BRITISH ISLES RESEARCH EVENT - 10 - 4 pm

BCGS Genealogical Library, Unit 211, 12837 - 76th Avenue, Surrey, BC

See pages 5 & 6 for further information on all scheduled events

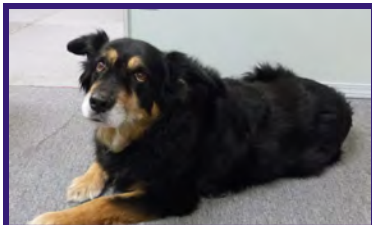


MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17th is FAMILY DAY in BC - Family Day gives family members and their children a chance to celebrate the meaning of being a family and to spend quality time with their loved ones by participating in fun activities together.

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Check our website 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 or the eJournal editor at journal@bcgs.ca. Your stories encourage others!





BCGS
February
2020

FEBRUARY IS ABOUT LOVE ...



Grandma **LOVES** the Family Tree ~

There's been a change in Grandma, we've noticed her of late,
She's been reading history or jotting down some date.
She's tracking back the family; we'll all have pedigrees.
Oh, Grandma's got a hobby; she's climbing Family Trees.

Poor Grandpa does the cooking now, it's bad, or so he states,
That worst of all, he has to wash the cups and Dinner plates.
Grandma can't be bothered; she's busy as a bee,
Compiling Genealogy, for the Family Tree.



She goes down to the Courthouse and studies ancient lore,
We know more about our forebears than we ever knew before.
The books are old and dusty, they make poor Grandma sneeze,
A minor irritation when you're climbing Family Trees.

The mail is all for Grandma, it comes from near and far,
Last week she got the proof she needs to join the DAR.
A worthwhile avocation, to that we all agree,
A monumental project, but she **LOVES** the Family Tree.

~ Anonymous



Photos and poster by June Gauntley, member #5112

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Eunice Robinson, BCGS President president@bcgs.ca

Last month I was blessed to receive this most amazing family information for one of my connected lines. The former 'keeper of stuff' was downsizing, but fortunately, the family knew of my interest in 'the dead people', and gave it all to me rather than throw it out! What a treasure trove of old photos – many with names written on the backs – so I've spent a lot of time this past month scanning and writing up those family stories. Just about finished.

Then we had a tremendous snowfall; well, for this part of the world anyway. So this actually kept me at home. I was able to sort through several files that hadn't seen light of day for quite a while. Guess what I found!!! These finds have now been dutifully scanned, identified and filed in an appropriate binder or drawer.

It has been suggested that we set smaller goals for ourselves so that when they are achieved, we feel a great sense of accomplishment. This is much easier for me to do than to make Big New Year's Resolutions, which manage to escape me during week two!

So consider picking one of your families and reviewing your research to-date, and then see what new records have been released, or which family member needs a gentle reminder of a promise made to share old photos. Is there someone you have been meaning to visit – call them up and make a date. By the end of this year, you should have been able to review at least 10 family lines!

And, if you have any families that arrived in British Columbia 1925 and earlier, consider writing them up in our *Pioneer Registry*. Forms are available, just email president@bcgs.ca and I'll be happy to send them to you.



So, Happy Valentine's Day and happy researching!

BCGS eJOURNAL NEWS



Lynne Fletcher, BCGS eJournal editor

Snow's gone, days are getting longer, and we are launching into a new year.

Shoveling the snow that fell in January reminded me of winters growing up during the fifties. Snow banks were much higher in those days (shades of the blizzard in Newfoundland), but every citizen just kept going. Snow was shoveled, homes kept warm, meals prepared, and everyone managed to get to work and to school on time.

During your Christmas visiting, when you were sharing special treats and tales from past seasons, did anyone share a special "weather" story, perhaps a wintery one? Could you share that tale with our eJournal readers?

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



BCGS GENEALOGY CHATS

Coffee Chats at the BCGS Genealogical Library in FEBRUARY & MARCH

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

Saturdays, Feb 8 & March 14

10 am to noon

With Linda Maitland

lindamaitland@telus.net



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

Saturdays, Feb 8 & March 14

1 to 3 pm

Please pre-register with Sharon Clayton

sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

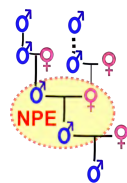
Parental Puzzles (NPE)

Mondays, Feb 17 & March 16

1 to 3 pm

With Sharon Clayton

sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

Advanced DNA Research Tools

Monday, Feb 24, 1 to 4 pm

Part 2 of learning how to use the Genetic Affairs Cluster Tools, a programme that magically collects our DNA cousins into related groups of colour-coded clusters. Please pre-register with Sharon Clayton sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



RESEARCH TECHNIQUES

Saturday, February 22

10 to noon

With Celia Lewis

celia.winky@gmail.com



MAC/REUNION GROUP

Wednesdays, Feb 19 & March 18

2 to 4 pm

With Bill Clayton

weclayton45@gmail.com



SOFTWARE for GENEALOGY

Snipping Tool & Similar Tools in Windows 10

Tuesday, February 4

10 to noon and repeated 1 to 3 pm

In the computer area

With Angus Glass

liliardsedge@aol.com



SCOTLAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA

With Lorraine Irving

lorraine.irving42@gmail.com



ENGLAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Saturday, February 1

10 to noon

With Rob Whitlock

robw.whitlock@gmail.com



IRELAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Saturday, February 1

1 to 3 pm

With Eunice Robinson

eunice@genbug.ca



ATLANTIC GENEALOGY CHAT

Tuesday, February 4

10 to noon

In the Boardroom

With Keith MacNutt

jkeithmacnutt@gmail.com



ONTARIO GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursday, February 27

10 to noon

With Janet White

jwhite@telus.net



BCGS Special Interest Groups

In FEBRUARY & MARCH

These are BCGS genealogy groups that meet elsewhere

SCANDINAVIAN GROUP

Saturdays, Feb 15 & March 21

1 to 3 pm

With Poul Erik Rasmussen

Scandinavian Community Centre

6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby

sonofrasmus@shaw.ca



WELSH GROUP

Wednesdays, Feb 19 & March 18

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



BRITISH ISLES RESEARCH EVENT

Saturday and Sunday, MARCH 21st and 22nd, 10 - 4 pm

BCGS Genealogical Library, Unit 211, 12837 - 76th Avenue, Surrey, BC

OPEN to ALL BCGS MEMBERS

An RSVP would be appreciated, mainly to track the numbers. The Library holds about 25+ people around study tables, etc. There is no plan to cap numbers unless we receive too many responses. Please contact Rob Whitlock at

robw.whitlock@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER for 2020



All current memberships expired on December 31st, so if you haven't already renewed, please do so ASAP to avoid any lapse in benefits, Members' Only access, the monthly Newsletter or the quarterly eJournal.

**PAST DUE
PLEASE RENEW**

There are three ways to renew: at the Members' Monthly Meeting on FEBRUARY 12th, or by mail - print the membership form from our website at www.bcgs.ca, or right now on the BCGS website with PAYPAL at: [BCGS Renew now](#)



NOTICE of CALL for NOMINATIONS

The **BCGS Annual General Meeting** will be on Wednesday, 11 March 2020. At the AGM, in addition to all the other business of the Society, elections will be held for the positions of President, Two Vice Presidents, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer for the 2020 – 2021 term and 2 (two) Directors for the 2020 – 2023 term.

Any member can nominate another member for any of the positions. Please complete a Nomination Application for each BCGS member whom you would like to nominate and email or hand deliver it to Rob Whitlock, BCGS Past President. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

A copy of the BCGS Nomination Application is available from Rob by email upon request.

The elections will be held at the **Annual General Meeting at 7:30 PM on Wednesday, 11 March 2020** at the Danish Lutheran Church, Downstairs Hall, 6010 Kincaid St, Burnaby, BC. All full members are eligible to vote.

Rob Whitlock, BCGS Past President Responsible for Nominations

robw.whitlock@gmail.com



BCGS TREASURER - Judy Rosmus, member #5551

Donations - THANK YOU - to all our members who have made a donation - large or small. It is appreciated.

Our Society is supported by **membership fees**. These fees are our **main source of income**.

Our largest single source of **extra funds** is **annual donations** from members who add a donation when they pay their membership fees or who donate a substantial amount annually.

BCGS finances are covered by our membership fees and although we continue to attract new members each year, lapsed memberships are outnumbering those gains.

We are one of very few remaining societies to maintain a functioning **genealogical library** and 95% of our annual budget is spent on the library. These costs include maintenance and necessities such as hydro, telephone & internet, strata fees and insurance.

A big thank you goes out to our members who answered our request for monetary donations last year. We very much appreciate your generosity and we hope that even more members will donate this year.



If you haven't already, please RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2020 and, please INCLUDE A DONATION TODAY.

ANY AMOUNT will be GRATEFULLY RECEIVED at any time of the year via VISA, PAYPAL, CHEQUE OR CASH.

The BCGS Board of Directors 2019



BCGS POSTCARD COLLECTION



POSTCARDS OF THE MONTH

The Story Behind a Picture Postcard

Janice Kidwell, BCGS member #5033

VALENTINE'S DAY - FEBRUARY 14th

Valentine's Day, also called **Saint Valentine's Day** or the **Feast of Saint Valentine**, is recognized and celebrated each year on February 14. It originated as a Western Christian '**feast day**' honouring an early saint named **Valentinus**. Valentine's Day is seen as a significant cultural, religious, and commercial celebration of romance and romantic love in many regions around the world.

The idea that Valentine's Day first became associated with romantic love is thought to have originated in the 14th century with Geoffrey Chaucer's poem *Parliament of Fowls* when a group of birds would gather together in the early spring – on 'seynt valentyne's day' – to choose their mates for the year.

In 18th-century England, it grew into an occasion in which couples expressed their love for each other by presenting flowers, confectionery and sending greeting cards (known as "valentines"). Valentine's Day symbols used include heart-shaped outline images, doves, the winged Cupid and Saint Valentine's keys to "unlock the giver's heart". Further interesting information can be found online.



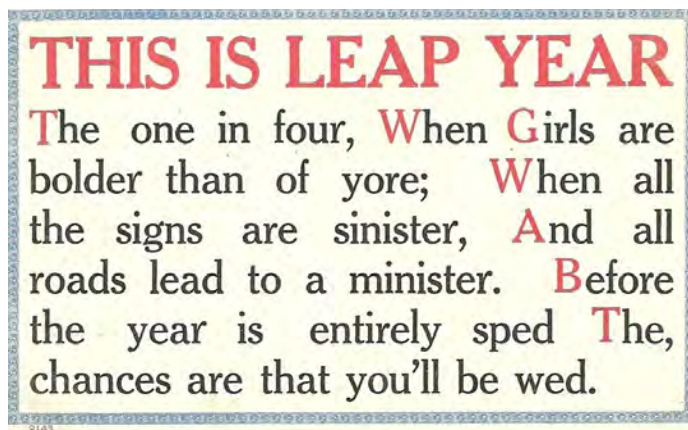
LEAP YEAR - FEBRUARY 29, 2020

This postcard is found in the BCGS collection but has no identification information to indicate the author of the poem or of the producer of the card.

Wikipedia has the following information about Leap Year and Bachelor's Day:

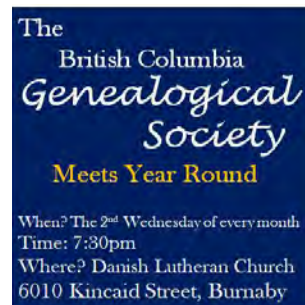
A **Leap Year** is a calendar year that usually occurs every four years and contains an additional day called 'Leap Day' that is added to keep our modern day Gregorian calendar year in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the Sun as the Earth does not orbit the sun in precisely 365 days.

Bachelor's Day is an Irish tradition on Leap Day allowing women to initiate dances and propose marriage. If the proposal was refused the man was expected to either pay a fine or buy the woman a silk gown - or by the mid-20th century a fur coat. The tradition is supposed to originate from a deal that Saint Bridget made with Saint Patrick. Fact or fiction, it is still fun reading.



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

Danish Lutheran Church Hall, 6010 Kincaid Street, Burnaby, BC

THE NEXT MEETING is on -

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2020

See our front page for details of the upcoming **FEBRUARY** meeting

The doors open half an hour before the meeting starts, and you're welcome to chat with other members and get settled in. Our business meeting begins at 7:30, followed by a coffee break where you can chat with others. We then have our 50/50 draw and break out into our education sessions - usually about an hour. Then there's time for more chatting while we tidy up.



FEBRUARY TO JUNE 2020



Education Schedule for Members' Meetings

FEBRUARY 12th - Genealogical Cocktail Party and DNA Webinar Discussions

MARCH 11th - BCGS Annual General Meeting and Election of BCGS Board of Directors

APRIL 8th - SPEAKER - RALPH DREW - author of "THE COQUITLAM CHRONICLES" - He currently written four books and working on the fifth

MAY 13th - SPEAKERS - "DNA COUSINS - KEN & BARBI - How They Found Each Other" - Ken & Barbi Braude

JUNE 10th - SPEAKER - PATRICIA SKIDMORE - "MARJORIE, TOO AFRAID TO CRY - A Home Child Experience"

BCGS WEBSITE ACCESS for NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

Members are reminded that it is important to create your profile after you receive your email confirmation for the Free Access registration. You MUST help us out by providing your **Member Number and Full Name** in your profile. If you don't, it will definitely delay your update to Paid Access. If anyone needs a new copy of the instructions to sign up, send a request to webmaster@bcgs.ca and the instructions will be emailed to you. **NOTE:** Your update to Paid Access is what gives you access to the **MEMBERS ONLY** part of the website.



LOOKING BACK at the JANUARY MEETING - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2020



The **BCGS Fund Raising Committee** met Saturday, January 4th to discuss and organize this year's **Name That Tune Fundraiser**. The committee also held a meeting before the January Monthly General Meeting. **Peter Whitlock**, right, holding a CD player, spoke to the membership during the meeting and played a couple of tunes as an example of the contest for those who did not attend last year's event in Chilliwack. Above: **Judith Ueland, Rob Whitlock, Cathy Lawrence, Jacqueline Penney, Peter Whitlock, Linda Drake and Lynne Fletcher**. Not shown but attending the before-the-meeting meeting were Kenneth Livingstone and Janet White.



Left: **Frances Ingram**, Hospitality, holding the bag of 50/50 tickets from which **Rob Whitlock** drew the winning ticket.

Right: Frances presents **Barbara Onstad** with her winnings.



Left: **Karen Wells** of Maple Ridge, member #5752, was able to attend her first meeting courtesy of a ride from Rob Whitlock.



Group photos - above right and right: There was a large turnout for January considering the difficult weather.



LOOKING BACK at the JANUARY MEETING - MEMBERS' VOICE AT THE MEETING

Many of our members have specialized information about family history research to impart, the breaking down of a brick wall or a family story of interest to the meeting. The following were given at this meeting.



Jacqueline Penney: member #5482

Jacqueline had three sets of discoveries, illustrated by enlarged photos, for the members.

1. **ASK:** Her first item was about ASK – **Hiro Okusa**, a Japanese Garden Specialist, is researching the history of Japanese gardeners in the lower mainland. In addition to researching at the Richmond and Surrey Archives and libraries, does anyone have suggestions as to other places/archives he could attend to gather more information?

2. **SHOW:** Secondly, with regard to her grandmother and great-grandparents, Jacqueline sent a poorly scanned photo from the history book of Spy Hill and wondered whether the Wick [Historical] Society, Caithness County, Scotland would have a better copy in their Johnston Collection (3 generations of photographers between 1863 and 1975). Alas, they didn't. However, they did have a few photos of the **SANDISON** family, one of which included four sisters. The Society could identify the two younger girls but were unsure which sister was which between the older two as they were about the same age. Based on



other pictures in her possession, Jacqueline was able to place the appropriate names to the young women. An added bonus: Jacqueline stayed with the youngest sister's great-grandson (booked through Airbnb) during her last trip to Scotland. She was also able to obtain a photo of the sailing drifters in **Wick harbour**, pictured, left.



3. **SHOW:** Jacqueline had a map of the **SINCLAIR** and **CHAPMAN** farms from the early 1900s as well as a copy of handwritten notes of an early unidentified resident in the Spy Hill. Jacqueline had been wanting to confirm that two little **SINCLAIR** girls and their uncle had been buried on one of the farms. **LILLIAN McCRIMMON**, who knew someone who knew of the family, contacted **NORMAN RICHARDSON** of Yorkton. He provided the notes that confirmed that they had died of diphtheria. The notes also described the original writer's (name unknown) living conditions around that time. She wrote that she lived in a **sod house** "made mostly of poplar poles and sod except one end part which was logs where we slept and lived. This building was all one continuous crescent shape or to speak in another term, the shape of a new moon and

the first winter we lived in the east end and there was a door opening into the next room or building where the MacLEODS lived that winter"

Later in the letter she wrote, "It rained for three days so was very wet inside. Mother took a broom and swept the water into the cellar underneath the floor and toadstools were growing between the poles holding up the sod and hay."



LOOKING BACK at the JANUARY MEETING - Members' Voice, cont'd



Janet White, member #4310

Janet spoke about her great-great-grandmother Sarah Jane WHITE's twin sisters, Mary Ann and Emily Ann WOODMAN as well as her (Janet's) connecting to a descendant through DNA and the mystery of the connection. See our column "Focus on an Ancestor", page 27 for the full and fascinating story.



EDUCATION – SPEAKERS - EUNICE ROBINSON & CELIA LEWIS

The Education portion of the meeting was a joint presentation entitled

"You'll Never Guess What I Found" with

EUNICE ROBINSON, MEMBER #112

and

CELIA LEWIS, MEMBER #5183

Eunice began the session by reading the suggestions from the poster by June Gauntley entitled, "What Are Your Genealogy Goals for 2020?". The poster is on page 3 of the BCGS January Newsletter.

Celia followed with, "What Have I found in the Past Year?", encouraging researchers to review what they have discovered and evaluate the hours and money spent on their research. A comment used and later explained by both Celia and Eunice is, "What's the Dash?" meaning all that happened between the dates of a person's birth and death, ie. 1904 - 1988. The dash is the story of the life lived. Evaluate your family's stories to make the lives of the person more available, interesting and alive. She suggested writing a short, two paragraph recount of that life – or two lines – or even a notation to follow that person.

Other to-do items, which are highly important to keeping your research understandable and in order are: File Those Papers, Make Your Program Entries, and Devise Personal Stories for Your People.

Celia talked about reading Amy Johnson Crow's program called, "52 Ancestors in 52 Weeks" www.amyjohnsoncrow.com › [52-ancestors-in-52-weeks](http://www.amyjohnsoncrow.com/52-ancestors-in-52-weeks), which can assist in producing a written book or pamphlet of your research.

Eunice then listed the many ways you can improve your family history from scanning photos to photographing any special item connected to the family or recording a particular saying or story about a given family member.

A highlight of the evening was Eunice's story about visiting an older relative who had a large, coloured cross section of the ship "Caribou" and its sinking in October 14, 1942 in which 137 lives were lost. They are not her family but she still feels good about this discovery which may become of interest to a family descendant.



BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

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

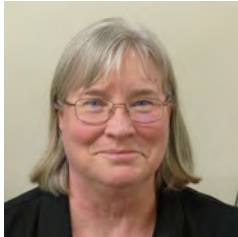


BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Unit 211, 12837 – 76th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

NEWS from the LIBRARY STACKS



Corrine Jubb, Library Administrator

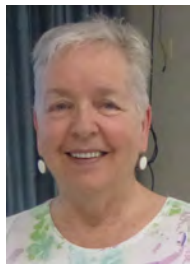
BCGS has a subscription to **American Ancestors**, a database of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. The database has immigration, census/tax & voters lists, vital records, court and military records and genealogies.

The library also receives the printed NEHGR journal (974 NEHGR), the American Ancestors magazine (974 NEA) and their digital, “The Weekly Genealogist” newsletter.

Check out the database at the BCGS Genealogical Library – you might find it has more than just eastern seaboard area information.

NOTE: The BCGS subscription ends this summer so take this opportunity to visit the BCGS Genealogical Library and do your research while it is still free to members.





GENEALOGY GEMS & ODDITIES in the BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Celia Lewis, Member #5183

I went on Legacy Webinars and saw that they have a list of the classes being presented. Excellent presenters, interesting topics! It was very tidily presented - you can see the different times and days. The three dates and times are for the three time zones displayed. I registered myself for it all - that way I can pick and choose, and then go back another day to see the others I missed or didn't need to research.

NOTE: We are discussing Webinars at the February Monthly Meeting with the thought of having presentations of webinars at the BCGS Genealogical Library in the near future.

The Classes

Title	Speaker	Sydney	London / GMT	Eastern U.S.
How Do I Know It's Correct: Evidence and Proof	Rebecca Koford, CG, CGL	Fri Mar 13, 8am	Thu Mar 12, 9pm	Thu Mar 12, 5pm
Not Who He Once Was: Tips for Finding Your Name-Changing Ancestor	Mary Kircher Roddy, CG	9am	10pm	6pm
A Vast and Virtual Genealogical Library is Waiting for Your Exploration	Mike Mansfield	10am	11pm	7pm
How DNA Influences Our Identity	Diahann Southard	11am	Fri Mar 13, 12am	8pm
Searching By Name: Swedish Records Using ArkivDigital	Kathy Meade	12pm	1am	9pm
Advanced Googling for Your Grandma	Cyndi Ingle	1pm	2am	10pm
Can a Dead Man Sign a Deed?	Kelvin L. Meyers	2pm	3am	11pm
Civil Registration in Australia	Helen V. Smith	3pm	4am	Fri Mar 13, 12am
Four Sources for New Zealand Family History	Fiona Brooker	4pm	5am	1am
Documents of Death	Helen V. Smith	5pm	6am	2am
MyHeritage DNA 101	Ran Snir	6pm	7am	3am
Emigration via Hamburg	Andrea Bentschneider	7pm	8am	4am
Thankful Villages: the Impact of World War One on Communities	Kirsty Gray	8pm	9am	5am
Empower yourself with the MyHeritage DNA Health test	Shahar Bitton	9pm	10am	6am
How to Use Dutch Parish Records from the 17th and 18th Century	John Boeren	10pm	11am	7am
Researching a Hessian Soldier	Craig R. Scott, MA, CG	11pm	12pm	8am
Researching Scandinavian Ancestors? It's Amazing What You Can Learn	Mike Mansfield	Sat Mar 14, 12am	1pm	9am
Black, Yellow, Red: Find Your Belgian Ancestors!	Marie Cappart	1am	2pm	10am
The Third Coast: How the Great Lakes Shaped America	Cari Taplin, CG	2am	3pm	11am
Digital Image Workflows That Really Work	Denise May Levenick	3am	4pm	12pm
The Coded Census: Deciphering U.S. Census	Thomas MacEntee	4am	5pm	1pm
Advanced Features of MyHeritage.com	Daniel Horowitz	5am	6pm	2pm
The Science of Family History	Devin Ashby	6am	7pm	3pm
"My Ancestors Were Normans" - Oh Really? Prove It!	Dr. Bruce Durie	7am	8pm	4pm

NOTE: For more information, see:

The 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon

Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 30 January 2020

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=30772>

Registration is now open for the first ever, free 24-Hour Genealogy Webinar Marathon, hosted by Family Tree Webinars and MyHeritage. The marathon will begin on Thursday, March 12 at 5:00 p.m. Eastern time and end on Friday, March 13 at 5:00 p.m.



BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY, cont'd

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

Images Available

To view these images you must do one of the following:

- Access the site at a [family history center](#)
- Access the site at a [FamilySearch affiliate library](#)

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.

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY has a SUBSCRIPTION to AMERICANANCESTORS.ORG until SUMMER 2020

AmericanAncestors.org has more than 1 billion records spanning the US and beyond to help find your ancestors and solve your genealogical mysteries. Check it out and then **come to the library to do some research** while it is still available - **free to members.**



<https://www.americanancestors.org/index.aspx>

NOTE: THIS BCGS SUBSCRIPTION ENDS SOON

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY now has a FREE TRIAL for MYHERITAGE.COM from March 1st through May 31st, 2020.

“Search billions of records - dive into our huge international records database – just search a name to learn more about your ancestors. With exclusive content and accurate results we'll help you uncover more than you ever imagined.”



BCGS NEWS

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

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!

- 5768 Normandie **Miller** of Delta
- 5770 Yvette **Howards** of Chilliwack
- 5771 Malcolm **Toms** of Vancouver
- 5772 Catherine **Tombs** of Vancouver
- 5773 Lorna **Alsip** of Langley



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/bcgdiscussion>

BCGS 2020 CALENDAR - FEBRUARY

Historic Images courtesy of CITY OF VANCOUVER ARCHIVES Item: CVA152-28 - THE HASTINGS MILL STORE, VANCOUVER BC
Photo construction: George Caldwell, written commentary: Sharon Clayton



The Hastings Mill Store is Vancouver's oldest building. It was built in 1865 for Captain Edward Stamp's British Columbia and Vancouver Island Spar, Lumber and Sawmill Company. The rough-sawn cedar plank building, erected at the foot of Dunlevy Street, housed the city's first post office, library and community centre. As one of very few structures that survived Vancouver's devastating Great Fire on June 13 1886, it was used as a hospital and morgue for fire victims. After Hastings Mill closed in 1928, the mill and surrounding buildings were slated for demolition. In the first heritage conservation campaign in the city, the Native Daughters of British Columbia successfully raised \$10,000 to save the Hastings Mill Store. The rescued building was transported by barge to the foot of Alma Street. In 1931, it re-opened as the Museum of B.C. Historical Relics in Memory of the Pioneers. Since 1932, it has been known as The Old Hastings Mill Store Museum. The museum is still operated by the Native Daughters of British Columbia, a historical society composed of B.C. born volunteer women.

Old Hastings Mill Store Museum - 1575 Alma Street, Vancouver, BC

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 president@bcgs.ca



CONGRATULATIONS!

Encouraging & Preserving Family History Research
Since 1971

The British Columbia Genealogical Society

welcomes

New Member Name

as a member to the Society for 1 year

Compliments of
Gift Giver

Membership year:
January 1, 2020-December 31, 2020

Date of Issue	Authorized by	Membership #
Issue Date	Who Authorized	12345

We look forward to assisting you with your family history research. As a member, you will receive our monthly e-Newsletter and our quarterly e-Journal. We invite you to attend our monthly membership meeting, held the **2nd Wednesday of every month** at the **Danish Lutheran Church**, 6010 Kincaid Avenue, Burnaby, BC.

The **BCGS Genealogical Library** is located at Unit 211, 12837 - 76th Avenue, Surrey, BC. The hours of operation at Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Our phone number is **604-502-9119**. Our website is www.bcgs.ca - contact our webmaster at webmaster@bcgs.ca for information on how to access the **Members Only** section.

If you require more information, please contact us at bcgs@bcgs.ca.

BCGS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are lots of volunteer opportunities within the BCGS. Many hands make light work and ALL help is appreciated!

***NEEDED IMMEDIATELY* LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS** - Volunteers are needed for the morning shift (10 am to 12:30) or the afternoon shift (12:30 to 3 pm) or the whole day for the second Saturday of each month. Please contact Corrine Jubb at library@bcgs.ca

DIGITIZING NEWSPAPERS - BC RESEARCH - 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

BOOK INDEXING PROJECT - More indexers are needed. Indexing is done on an Excel spreadsheet but no experience is necessary. Jacqueline Penney will be happy to teach those who would like to help out. Please contact Jacqueline at jmpenney@me.com

PIONEER REGISTRY - THE NEXT WAVE - Project Update
Thanks to the members who are submitting their information to the Pioneer Registry – the Next Wave. If you are interested in submitting your pioneers, email Eunice Robinson at president@bcgs.ca and she will send you the form.

50th ANNIVERSARY BOOK - The BCGS will be celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021 and volunteers are needed to work on the anniversary book. Please contact Eunice Robinson president@bcgs.ca



HOLTEN NETHERLANDS CEMETERY PROJECT – This project is to honour the World War II soldiers who fell and are buried in the **Canadian War Cemetery in Holten, Netherlands**. We are researching each of the 81 soldiers from British Columbia, producing a biography, and hoping that we might locate relatives too. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact Melissa Borgerson at melissa_n_cecil@hotmail.com

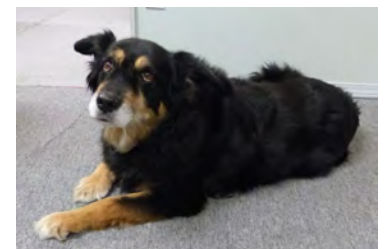


FOCUS on BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY VOLUNTEERS



Left: **Robert Holland**, member #5361, now handles the e-publications which we receive from some 98 genealogical societies throughout Canada, the United States, Britain and Europe. We are receiving one or two new e-journals each month so the number is growing apace. Robert sees that these e-journals are posted to one of the computers in the BCGS Library and are available for review by members.

Right: **Mira** accompanies **Jacqueline Penney** to the BCGS Genealogical Library and acts as both mascot and guard dog. She is lovely to have with us and we appreciate her calm and friendly nature. (From Marvin Millis who volunteers at the Library the same days as Mira). Mira, pronounced with a short 'i', is Spanish. It means: Look!





VOLUNTEER and BOARD MEMBERS MEETING, held on JANUARY 19, 2020

Despite the inclement weather, many BCGS Board and Volunteer members met in the BCGS Genealogical Library's Boardroom on Sunday, January 19th for discussions about the BCGS Genealogical Library and future activities of the BCGS. A round table introduction helped to further discussions.

We are an eclectic group. Some of our members work from home on specific projects or volunteer at the BCGS Library. Others serve on the Board or regularly attend monthly meetings. This annual meeting is one way for each of us to get to know one another and express our thoughts about improvements or changes to the Library and for the Board to update volunteers on proposed actions. One of the suggestions was to have a comprehensive list of the BCGS ongoing projects. Watch for more information on this in subsequent Newsletters. Our thanks to everyone for their support of the BCGS and our Library.



LONG TIME VOLUNTEER

Marvin Millis, member #3526

During the Volunteers Meeting, I was asked how long I've been volunteering. I replied that it had been "since we opened here" and that reply caused

Claire Belzer to think that I had been volunteering for 49 years! So I had to correct her by specifying in "this building"* and then told her, "Don't make me that old"!

My first volunteer day was either the first Saturday of October 1996 or the first Tuesday of October 1996. On my first Saturday days, I was there all day with Pam Mindek and Shirley Thrapp. On my first Tuesday days, I was there all day with Jean Milne and John Capon. Eventually, when Janice Nickerson married and went back east, I volunteered for the fourth Saturday slot with Sheila Trafton and Valerie Logue.

Going back in time: My first BCGS meeting was in November 1993. I had learned about the meetings at Edmonds Community Centre from the Vancouver Public Library Main Branch. When I signed up, the Membership persons were Don & Anne Graham.

I had been doing some Millis family research by snail-mail and had compiled a lineage back to the early 1700s at Kingston-upon-Thames, Surrey, England. During the first part of the meeting, the chairperson asked new members to state whom they were researching and where. On the break, I was approached by Marjorie Dallas who was also researching the Millises of Kingston-upon-Thames! So we ended up comparing notes. She had made trips to Salt Lake City or perhaps England, and had information that the surname was recorded in the 1600s as Millest, Mellish and other variations. Marjorie had found an apprenticeship record dated 1664 for the Millest who became a cordwainer** at Kingston - making him born in 1650 and his father about 1625.

My first volunteer time was one of the Saturdays in February 1994 at 8th & Cambie; then again in March. Then the City told us that the building was not zoned to allow for our facility.

So this is my story, and I'm sticking to it!

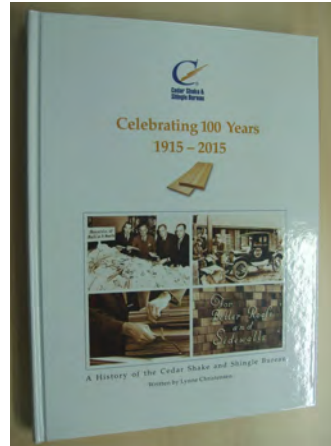
* "this building refers to the BCGS Genealogical Library at Unit 211, 12837 - 76th Avenue, Surrey, BC

** "A cordwainer (/ˈkɔːrdɪweɪnər/) is a shoemaker who makes new shoes from new leather."

NEW MAP CABINET AT THE LIBRARY



A “new to us” map cabinet was donated by **Lynne Christensen** (Penny’s daughter), from the **Cedar Shake & Shingle Bureau**. We have a copy of their book, *Celebrating 100 Years 1915 – 2015*, which was also donated to our library.



Bill Clayton (left) is shown with the cabinet as it was delivered to the Library. It will be repositioned upstairs, which is very pleasing to **Claire Belzer** (right), Library Volunteer and Map Co-ordinator.



EACH LITTLE DONATED TAB CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO OUR BCGS BUDGET

BCGS Board member **Ann Buchanan** has learned that BCGS can raise some extra money by collecting pull tabs from soft drink and beer cans. A metal recycling depot will pay us fifteen cents per pound. That may not sound like much, but Ann and her brother-in-law, Jamie, have a head start on the rest of us.

To kick-start our new fundraising project, Ann has already delivered these six extra large pickle jars (chock-a-block full of tabs) to Bill and Sharon Clayton. Some of Bill & Sharon’s friends from the BCGS Quebec Questers group frequently bring plastic bags of tabs to the monthly BCGS meetings and to our meetings at the library. In the past, Sharon has donated these tabs to the Surrey Food Bank, but she is willing to change charities until our Society’s bank account is in much better shape.

Ann has happily accepted a generous offer to donate two TUBS of tabs to the cause. They haven’t been picked up yet, so we don’t know the weight of the bounty. After the tabs have been weighed and we have deposited the proceeds to our BCGS bank account, we will let you know how we made out.



The little bit of extra effort required to detach tabs from the cans would be greatly appreciated. The Society will be happy to receive your aluminum cans and pull tabs (together or separately) at the library in Surrey during the hours it’s open or at any of our monthly BCGS meetings in Burnaby.

British Columbia Genealogical Society Presents



50th Anniversary Alaska Cruise

September 12-19, 2021 • Holland America's NIEUW AMSTERDAM
Featuring Blaine Bettinger & Mary Kathryn Kozy on Sea Days

7-DAY ALASKAN INSIDE PASSAGE

September 12—19, 2021

Nieuw Amsterdam	FARES FROM*
Interior Stateroom	\$1,517 ^{CAD}
Ocean-View Stateroom	\$1,957 ^{CAD}
Verandah Stateroom	\$2,582 ^{CAD}

* All Stateroom fares INCLUDE Taxes and Port Fees of \$319.66 per passenger. Prices are Canadian Dollars.

Explore Alaska with Holland America Line

From calving glaciers to foraging wildlife, Gold Rush history to native cultures, no one knows the Great Land better than Holland America Line. Enjoy the real Alaska—plus exceptional onboard programs and entertainment—in classic cruise style.

DATE	PORT	ARRIVE	DEPART
Sep 12	Vancouver		4:30pm
Sep 13	Inside Passage (Genealogy Day)		
Sep 14	Juneau	1 pm	10 pm
Sep 15	Skagway	7 am	9 pm
Sep 16	Glacier Bay	7 am	4 pm
Sep 17	Ketchikan	10 am	6 pm
Sep 18	Inside Passage (Genealogy Day)		
Sep 19	Vancouver	7 am	

BOOK NOW FOR THE BEST SAVINGS!
Call Robert Marcoux at 604.401.0484 or toll-free at 1.866.354.1869
or email robert@getawaywithcompass.ca

BOOK NOW!



UPDATE from Sharon Clayton: When our Alaska Cruise seminar presenters - **Blaine Bettinger** and **Mary Kathryn Kozy**, were both at the RootsTech conference in Salt Lake City, they put their heads together for some advance planning for the eight seminars during the two sea days. It's too early to decide what the seminar topics will be, but on both Day 2 and Day 6, the learning will begin at 8:30 am. Each seminar will be one hour long and there will be a two-hour break for lunch on both days. From 2-5 pm on Day 6, Blaine and Mary Kathryn will be offering paid **one-on-one consultations** of 15-20 minutes each for researchers interested in receiving personalized expert advice about either traditional or genetic genealogy.

Our **Facebook** group has 107 members - not all committed to being on board when the Nieuw Amsterdam leaves Vancouver's Cruise Ship Terminal on September 12, 2021. Anyone who is interested in knowing the latest news about the cruise is welcome to join our Facebook group, and if necessary, ask for more information.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/503171243562227/>



The CLOVERDALE branch of Surrey Libraries will remain **CLOSED FOR RENOVATIONS until MARCH 2020.**

The Family History Department's last day at City Centre branch will be Saturday, February 22. The Family History department will then close and pack up as we move back into our new space at Cloverdale branch. The opening at Cloverdale branch is still termed as "early March", with a specific date still to be confirmed. The website will have all the updates: www.surreylibraries.ca/familyhistory.

There will be NO GENEALOGY PROGRAMS at either location in FEBRUARY.

THE VANCOUVER BC FHC HOURS

5280 Kincaid St, Burnaby, BC

Phone: 604-299-8656

E-mail: bc_vancouver@ldsmail.net



THE SURREY BC STAKE FHC HOURS

6270 126th Street Surrey BC

Phone: 604-597-9695

E-mail: surreyfhc@gmail.com

Regular hours as follows:

- Wednesday 10:00 am to 6:00 pm
- Thursday 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- Friday 10.00 am to 2:00 pm
- Saturday 8:00 am to noon

Regular hours as follows:


- Tuesday 10 am to 9 pm
 - Wednesday 11 am to 3 pm
 - Thursday 2 pm to 9 pm
- During inclement weather, call ahead.

Learn more or celebrate your Loyalist ancestor(s) with involvement in the UELAC VANCOUVER BRANCH - Upcoming dates for the winter months of 2020

Tuesday, February 18, 2020 7:30 - 9:30 pm : Branch Meeting at Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby. "Year in Review" video with music + a time for members to give input on our upcoming April field trip. Guests are always welcome.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 7:30 - 9:30 pm : Regular Branch Business meeting at the Bonsor Recreation Complex. Special guest speaker to be confirmed.





Steps to Our Ancestors Workshop

Nanaimo Family History Society

- ◆ Getting Started
- ◆ Evaluating Evidence
- ◆ Organizing
- ◆ Understanding DNA
- ◆ Using Online sources

9 to 5 Saturday, March 28, 2020
Beban Park, Nanaimo
Novice and Intermediate

Speakers

- ◆ Dave Obee
- ◆ Marie Palmer
- ◆ Brenda L. Smith

\$25 Early Bird Before Feb 29th \$30 After Feb 29th

Information and Registration
nanaimofamilyhistory.ca

GENEALOGY NEWS in CANADA

Upcoming events and new genealogical resources in Canada



Your ancestor was a Canadian volunteer in the Spanish Civil War?

Snipped from Library and Archives Canada blog article by Nicole Watier, 16 January 2020

<https://thediscoverblog.com/2020/01/16/your-ancestor-was-a-canadian-volunteer-in-the-spanish-civil-war/>

One of the more complex questions that our Genealogy desk receives is, "Where do I begin to find the service records of my relative who served in the Spanish Civil War?" The Spanish Civil War began on July 18, 1936, and Canada, like many other countries, did not officially intervene. Although the Canadian government made it illegal for Canadians to serve by passing the [Foreign Enlistment Act](#), more than 1,400 Canadians volunteered to defend the Spanish government. Along with more than 40,000 volunteer combatants worldwide, they fought for the democratic Republican government (supported by the Soviet Union and Mexico) against the Spanish Army officers led by General Francisco Franco (supported by Germany and Italy). The Communist Party of Canada organized the recruitment campaign in Canada.

DNA GENEALOGY NEWS

Some web links to help with genetic genealogy research



Cluster Auto Painter: unravel your DNA test results

Snipped from Jonny Perl's blog, DNA Painter Blog, 30 December 2019

<https://dnainter.com/blog/cluster-auto-painter-unravel-your-dna-test-results/>

I'm pleased to introduce **Cluster Auto Painter** (CAP), an early step towards automated chromosome mapping. CAP aims to help you dig deeper into your DNA test results by letting you annotate and examine clusters of matches in a chromosome map.

Y DNA: Part 1 – Overview

Snipped from Roberta Estes' blog, DNAexplained -- Genetic Genealogy, 2 January 2020

<https://dna-explained.com/2020/01/02/y-dna-part-1-overview/>

Y DNA testing has so much to offer. In this overview article, I'm touching briefly on each of the major functions and features of Y DNA testing. Following articles in this series will focus on how to utilize each tool for genealogy and harvesting every snippet of information available. If you have Y DNA results, you can sign on to your account at Family Tree DNA and follow along. Throughout these articles, we'll step through every tab and function, how to use them, and what they mean to you.

Chromosome Mapping – Why Should You Do It?

Snipped from Ellen Thompson-Jennings' blog, Hound on the Hunt, of January 10, 2020

<https://blog.familyhistoryhound.com/2020/01/chromosome-mapping-why-should-you-do-it/>

I'll be honest, I've only played a little with chromosome mapping. The reason being is that I wasn't sure if it would help me; especially with my Beaton/Batten Mystery. But after watching a FREE video that I found on Legacy Family Tree Webinars, I decided to give it a closer look.

GENEALOGY SEMINARS & MEETINGS NEAR & FAR

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



ARMAGH ANCESTRY GENEALOGY CONFERENCE 2020

Armagh Ancestry,

in conjunction with Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council,

are hosting their annual Genealogy Conference on

Friday 8th, Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th May 2020

at the Navan Centre & Fort, 81 Killylea Road, Armagh, BT60 4LD.

For details, click the link

<http://www.rootsireland.ie/2020/01/armagh-genealogy-conference/>

Digging for Irish & Scots-Irish Roots?

Reserve Your Seat Now for

Ulster Historical Foundation's

Research Seminar!

Fintan Mullan, Executive Director of the Ulster Historical Foundation based in Belfast, Northern Ireland, and **Gillian Hunt**, Foundation Research Officer, bring their combined knowledge and years of experience in the field to give you a lively, informative perspective and insights on the challenges of RESEARCHING YOUR IRISH/ULSTER SCOTS ANCESTORS

Sunday March 22, 2020

11 am: Light 'Irish' luncheon compliments of Jacklin Arts & Cultural Center

12 noon—6pm: Lecture

\$35 before Feb 20th

\$45 Feb 20th & after

Come join us at:

The Jacklin Arts and Cultural Center,
405 N William Street, Post Falls, ID

More Info & Register Online:

janclizerpainting/events

(208) 777-5459

THE JACKLIN
ARTS AND
CULTURAL
CENTER

thejacklincenter.org

Fintan has been with the UHF (ancestryireland.com) for 22 years. He is also a non-executive director of the Irish Family History Foundation and a member of the Northern Ireland Publications Resource (NIPR). He has spoken widely in the USA about Irish family history research, in addition to Canada, the UK, Australia and New Zealand. He has a bachelor's degree in Irish Politics and Philosophy, and a master's degree in Organization and Management, both from Queen's University Belfast.

As well as managing the genealogy side of the Foundation's work, **Gillian** carries out research for individual clients and is a hugely experienced user of the Public Record Office of N. Ireland (PRONI), and of Ireland's General Register Office (Northern Ireland). She received a degree in History (BA Hons, 1998) and a Masters in Historical Studies (MA, 2000) from the University of Wales. With the Foundation since 2001, she regularly teaches courses and gives talks on family history in Ireland, the UK and the US.

MEMBERS' CORNER

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



Patrick Keily, member #5414

As I Recollect - Thoughts From the Basement of the Museum

My volunteer work at the Lynden Pioneer Museum has me installing a new security system - nine cameras connected to a central display/recorder. Being a wired system, cables need to be distributed throughout the museum with all but one attached to the basement ceiling.

The basement of the museum is where 48 buggies, wagons, and horse-drawn sleighs are displayed. Pulling cables through the collection means climbing into many 120 to 150 year-old relics to reach the ceiling. At one point, my age caught up to me and I sat down in the driver's seat of a very elaborate coach.

This must have been owned by someone wealthy. I pictured a handsome man going to a ball with a lovely young lady. They talked, as all young lovers do, about each other, their dreams, and the future. They had



their whole lives ahead of them. Tomorrow wouldn't happen for a long time.

They may have married, they may have had many children, they may have experienced terrible tragedies, or they may have enjoyed a trouble-free life. But one thing is certain—the first date they had in this coach was a very long time ago. Their lives are mostly forgotten, perhaps not much more than a few documents telling of birth, death, and place of burial. Nothing about a first date, a dance, holding hands, or the electric blue dress she wore. The story is the same for their children, grandchildren, and for us. We travel the road of life and at some point, we pull over to the side and let those behind us go by.

I'm not sure how long I sat in that buggy. Perhaps 10-15 minutes. It introduced me to people I never knew, still don't know, and probably never will know. But at the same time, it let those who have gone before me know that I do care about them and want others to care about them; to know of the warm days, the cold nights, the pain suffered.

But that evening, that ride to the ballroom, may have been the evening that led to love, for they were young and had their entire lives ahead.



Photos of buggies were taken by Patrick Keily at the Lynden Pioneer Museum.



Meg McLaughlin, member #3847

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 Power of Story

Research. It's addictive and leads down many rabbit holes. I used to spend hours cranking handles on microfilm readers back in the day, now instead of spending my time at a Family History Centre, I can find tons of new information on Ancestry or Find My Past or other databases so much more quickly. So quickly, in fact, that it leads to scads and scads of info. (My Ancestry shoebox contains many, many entries, but of course, never quite the ones that I could have sworn that I put there.) *Below: Clan Donald Centre, Isle of Skye*



Fairly early on in my life as a genealogist, I started visiting the places where my ancestors lived. They lived in lots of different places, good thing I enjoy traveling and figuring out new repositories. I filled notebooks and thumb drives and took photos of documents. I have so much interesting information somewhere around here.

Then there were the books - genealogy books and books about the history of the areas I was searching soon graced my shelves. I was sure that I would find time to read them someday when I could take time away from my research.

Let's face it, I was addicted to research but my organization was totally lacking. There were even times

when I visited a faraway archive and found an elusive fact only to find out that I already had that information. I had to do something. It was obvious that my research needed better focus. *Below: Part of Meg's personal library*



I recently watched a webinar which started with a segment about time management. The advice given was that, after you identify a goal, for every hour spent doing research, a genealogist should spend an hour in preparation and an hour analyzing. That sounded similar to something that I had been doing recently but I had been working on a piece of writing. I was working on the story of the first McNeil in a family line to end up in Canada. He had come from Scotland to fight for the British and was granted land in Nova Scotia after the American Revolution. I have worked on a number of in-depth stories and find them particularly satisfying. As advised in the webinar, when I work on a series of blog posts about a particular event or time in a family's history, I am focused on answering a question or series of questions, consult records and history books, analyze the information and then write down the conclusions.

Writing and the preparation it involves, seems to be a way that works for me to incorporate organization into my research. Finding the stories focuses my research and analysis and shows me information gaps to be filled. Who knows, maybe if I write out the stories found in every line I am researching, I might even be able to enter the BCGS Most Improved Genealogy Contest!

FOCUS ON AN ANCESTOR - *We all have favourite ancestors, ancestors whom we've just discovered, or ancestors about whom we have just learned something new. Send us a story about your ancestor - 500 words or less with a photo or two.*



Left: Janet White, member #4310 and right, Bev Squires, new-found 4th cousins.

Janet spoke about her great-great-grandfather, Rev. Edward WHITE, who came to BC, in 1859, with his wife. Sarah Jane and her twin sisters, Mary Ann and Emily Ann WOODMAN.

The twin sisters married two brothers. James CUNNINGHAM, first mayor of New WESTMINSTER, and Thomas CUNNINGHAM, later an MLA for Nanaimo. Together they ran CUNNINGHAM Hardware. James' family home burnt down in 1898, in the Great New Westminister Fire, but they were not poor as they owned 35 other houses in the area. They were on the verge of moving to Vancouver, but stayed and helped rebuild New Westminister with their insurance money.

One of the sisters, Mary Ann CUNNINGHAM paid for the old Protestant Children's Home (now a senior's centre: Thornbridge Gardens Retirement Residence) in New Westminister. At the opening, she said she was doing this, "as she could not have any children of her own". She had adopted three children and fostered seven.

At the New Westminister Historical Society, Janet met with a Cunningham descendant, Bev SQUIRES, whose grandmother, Frances E. Willard CUNNINGHAM, was one of Mary Ann's adopted children. Bev's grandmother had been named after the famous American suffragette, Frances WILLARD. Bev remembers that her

grandmother was not happy to discover she was adopted. Janet and Bev had searched the United Church Archives to find from where Frances had originated, and thought it might have been through Rev. Edward WHITE's son, Rev. James Henry WHITE, who had been a minister at Emerald St. United in Hamilton, Ontario and was now a minister at Queen's Avenue, New Westminister. Had they sent children to BC for adoption? She found records in the Church Archives, which had papered over some writing. They were not allowed to remove this paper, which said she had come from the States.

Amazingly, Janet and Bev recently found that, through DNA matches, they were actually fourth cousins. What a surprise! This meant that her Grandma really was related to the family. But how?

It seems that Frances E. Willard CUNNINGHAM had been born illegitimately to one of two spinster granddaughters of Emily Ann. At age 51, her twin, Mary Ann CUNNINGHAM, had adopted her sister's grandchild. "How exciting that news was!"

Because it was found that Janet and Bev had common third great-grandparents, this would have been Emily Ann and Mary Ann's parents, William and Mary Ann WOODMAN. He had come to BC in 1861, age 62, and was a shoemaker on Mary Street. They had come with daughter Mary Ann, to join their family, already here.

When Bev and Janet met, Janet invited Bev to her first grandson's christening. It turned out that Bev had put her daughter's 21st birthday announcement in the Vancouver Sun, right above Janet's grandson, Brody's, birth announcement. "We were evidently joined at the hip from the start," says Janet. "Just the best 2019 Christmas present we could get."

Now we just have to figure out which sister had baby Frances. There is a case for both spinsters.

That's what a DNA test can do for you!

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

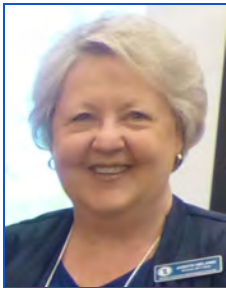
BCGS EVENTS

February 1	England Genealogy Chat - BCGS Genealogical Library - 10 to noon
February 1	Ireland Genealogy Chat - BCGS Genealogical Library - 1 to 3 pm
February 4	Atlantic Genealogy Chat - BCGS Genealogical Library - 10 to noon
February 4	Software for Genealogy - BCGS Genealogical Library - 10 to noon & 1 to 3 pm
February 8	Quebec Questers Chat - BCGS Genealogical Library - 10 am to noon
February 8	Exploring Genetic Genealogy - BCGS Genealogical Library - 1 to 3 pm
February 12	Members' Meeting - Danish Church Hall, Burnaby - 7:30 pm
February 15	Scandinavian Group - Scandinavian Community Centre, Burnaby - 1 to 3 pm
February 17	Exploring Genetic Genealogy - Parental Puzzles (NPE) - BCGS Genealogical Library - 1 to 3 pm
February 19	Welsh Group - Cambrian Hall , Vancouver - 10:30 to 12:30
February 19	Mac/Reunion Meeting - BCGS Genealogical Library - 2 to 4 pm
February 22	Research Techniques - BCGS Genealogical Library - 10 am to noon
February 24	Exploring Genetic Genealogy - BCGS Genealogical Library - 1 to 4 pm
February 27	Ontario Genealogy Chat - BCGS Genealogical Library - 10 to noon
March 11	Members' Meeting - Danish Church Hall, Burnaby - 7:30 pm
March 14	Quebec Questers Chat - BCGS Genealogical Library - 10 am to noon
March 14	Exploring Genetic Genealogy - BCGS Genealogical Library - 1 to 3 pm
March 16	Parental Puzzles (NPE) - Exploring Genetic Genealogy - BCGS Genealogical Library - 1 to 3 pm
March 18	Welsh Group - Cambrian Hall , Vancouver - 10:30 to 12:30
March 18	Mac/Reunion Meeting - BCGS Genealogical Library - 2 to 4 pm
March 21	Scandinavian Group - Scandinavian Community Centre, Burnaby - 1 to 3 pm
March 21-22	British Isles Research Event - BCGS Genealogical Library - 10 - 4 pm

Suggestions and comments are welcome. Please contact Judith Ueland and Linda Maitland at newsletter@bcgs.ca

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BCGS NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS



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Director (2020)



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Vice-President

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

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Unless otherwise noted, all photos are by Judith Ueland, Linda Maitland or Rob Whitlock.

Members' Corner photos have been submitted by the writer.

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