



## ***THE OFFSPRING***

### **BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY E-NEWSLETTER**

August, 2008 Volume 3 #2

Greetings to B.C.G.S. members & friends. This e-newsletter brings you up to date news of B.C.G.S. activities & genealogical information. To learn more about the British Columbia Genealogical Society, please visit: [www.bcgs.ca](http://www.bcgs.ca)

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### **B.C.G.S. MEETINGS & SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS – SEPTEMBER 2008**

#### **10 September, 2008 B.C.G.S. General Meeting**

**– Speaker – Eve Lazarus**

Eve Lazarus, journalist and writer, will talk about her book, [At Home with History: The Untold secrets of Greater Vancouver's Heritage Houses](#) (Vancouver: Anvil Press, 2007). Read excerpts at: [www.evelazarus.com/athome/intro.html](http://www.evelazarus.com/athome/intro.html)

#### **8 October, 2008 B.C.G.S. General Meeting**

Group Meetings:

Scottish Group

English Group – Home Children, with Susan Snalam and M. Diane Rogers

Discussion Group – Planning Your Salt Lake Trip

General meetings are held at the Edmonds Community Centre, 7282 Kingsway, (Kingsway and Edmonds), Burnaby, 7:30 pm. All are welcome to attend.

### **COMING UP – 7 March, 2009**

A day with Megan Smolenyak Smolenyak, sponsored by the B.C. Genealogical Society and the Cloverdale Branch of the Surrey Public Library. She is Chief Family Historian and North American Spokesperson for Ancestry.com, a well known author, DNA expert, and co-founder of Roots Television. Details soon.

### **B.C.G.S. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS – SEPTEMBER, 2008**

13 September, 2008

**Quebec Group** – meets at the B.C.G.S. library, 10 am - noon. #211-12837-76 Ave., Surrey

20 September, 2008

**Scandinavian Group** – meets at the Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby, 1 - 3 pm.

New members are always welcomed. Please see the updated list of B.C.G.S. Special Interest Facilitators for contact information: <http://www.bcgs.ca/IntGrpFac.htm>

9 September, 2008

**Discussion Group, Downtown Vancouver** –meets in the Vancouver Public Library Atrium, 1 pm, near the Blenz coffee shop. Informal genealogy discussion. All welcome. Free. V.P.L., 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver. Contact Diane Rogers: [diane\\_rogers@shaw.ca](mailto:diane_rogers@shaw.ca) or 604 724 8744.

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### **MORE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

#### **Cloverdale Branch Library Programmes, Surrey Public Library**

**Take your First Steps on the Ancestral Trail** with Brenda Smith. Saturday, 6 September, 2008, 10 am - 12:00 pm. \$10.00

**Work Life Stories or Fact Fillers?** Researching Occupational Records for Family History with M. Diane Rogers. Saturday, 13 September, 10:30 - 11:30 am. \$10.00

#### **BC 150! Surrey History Showtime!**

with Surrey Archives Reference Specialist, Ryan Gallagher. Saturday, 20 September, 10:30 - 11:30 am. By donation.

**Ancestry Library Edition:** How to Navigate the World's Largest Genealogy Collection Online! with Jacqui Haines. Saturday, 27 September, 10:30am - 11:30am. \$10.00

**Start Searching Your Family History - a Beginners' Workshop in 5 Lessons.** Mondays, 5:30 - 8:30 pm: 29 Sept, 27 Oct, 10 & 24 Nov, 8 Dec. \$100.00

Pre-register for all Cloverdale Library programmes. Call 604 598 7328, or e-mail: [genealogy@surrey.ca](mailto:genealogy@surrey.ca) Cloverdale Branch, Surrey Public Library - 5642 - 176A Street, Surrey, B.C. V3S 4G9

### **Burnaby Village Museum Walking Tours**

**Masonic Cemetery and Beth Israel Cemetery, Burnaby** walking tours with Maurice Guibord. Sunday, 14 September, 10am-12:30pm, \$10.50

**Ladies of the Lake** walking tour, Deer Lake Park, Burnaby, with Lynda Maeve Orr. Sunday, 21 September, 2-3:30pm, \$10.50

Preregister for Burnaby Village programmes: <http://burnabyvillagemuseum.ca> or call the Museum at 604 293 6500

### **Vancouver Public Library Genealogy and History Programmes**

**Probing the Canadian Pacific Railway Creation Myth of Vancouver, 1884-1889** with Frank Leonard. Friday, 19 September, 7:30 pm-8:45 pm. Free. For more information please contact VPL, Special Collections: 604-331-3778.

**Genealogy in the United States**, Tuesday, 23 September, 10:30 am-12:30 pm. Free. Registration begins Wednesday, September 3. Space is limited. For more information please contact VPL - Fine Arts and History at 604-331-3716.

Vancouver Public Library Event Calendar: <http://www.vpl.ca/cgi-bin/Calendar/calendar.cgi>

### **Delta Museum and Archives, exhibits to December 2008**

- 1858 on the Delta, a partnership exhibit with Tsawwassen First Nation
- Ladner Harbour
- Dolls to Cigars---Souvenirs of BC's Centennial, from the collections of Gwen Szychter.

Check details and dates at the Delta Museum and Archives website: [www.corp.delta.bc.ca/EN/main/residents/museum.html](http://www.corp.delta.bc.ca/EN/main/residents/museum.html)

## COMING UP – 18 October, 2008

### Tri-Stake ‘Finding Your Roots’ Seminar – 18 October, 2008

All day seminar with over 35 sessions. Free. Bring your lunch. The B.C.G.S. will be there as will other groups and exhibitors. Surrey BC Stake Centre, 6270 126 St., Surrey.

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## INFORMATION WANTED – British Artists Rifles Association

Did you have a relative in the British Artists Rifles Association? Do you have details or stories about that person? If so, Mike Powell would like to hear from you. 2010 is the 150th Anniversary of the formation of the Artist's Rifles and he is researching and compiling historical information. Deadline, 31 August, 2009. (Note: Mike is not able to offer lookups about members of the Association.)

For more information, and contact details, see: [www.ffhs.org.uk/ezone/articles/artists.php](http://www.ffhs.org.uk/ezone/articles/artists.php)  
Artists Rifles Association, 1860 on: [www.artistsriflesassociation.org](http://www.artistsriflesassociation.org)

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## BC150 HISTORICAL PROJECTS ON-LINE

**The Royal British Columbia Museum’s “The People’s History Project”** already has photographs, text, audio and video submissions celebrating arriving, growing up, working or living in BC. This project is an electronic time capsule of BC history as seen through the eyes of British Columbians in 2008 – the province’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. Visit the website at [www.freespiritbc.ca/peopleshistory](http://www.freespiritbc.ca/peopleshistory) to read some of the stories already submitted or to submit your own story or photograph, or call 250-381-4305 to record your story in your own voice.

**“BC150 – Celebrating Our Diversity”** *Vancouver Sun*. Articles, photographs and also videos. The *Sun* is still accepting submissions, (no more than 500 words) and these will be shared with the Royal BC Museum. (Please! If you submit a story, remember to mention your ancestors’ names – especially your grandmothers’.) :

[www.canada.com/vancouver/features/bc150/index.html#](http://www.canada.com/vancouver/features/bc150/index.html#)

**The *Times Colonist* of Victoria** is celebrating its own 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary along with British Columbia’s. Well known B.C. genealogist, Dave Obee, is the man behind the *Times Colonist* projects. Read the weekly stories and download the paper’s special anniversary edition: [www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/features/150/index.html](http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/features/150/index.html)

**The *Vancouver Courier*** also celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The *Courier*’s feature writer, Lisa Smedman, writes regular history columns and some are on-line, for instance, “Hastings Street runs through colonial history” July 11, 2008:

<http://www.canada.com/vancouvercourier/news/historylens/story.html?id=2579805d-a9db-47aa-8d14-dbab8a9f055b>

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## NEW WEBSITES & DATABASES ON-LINE AND UPCOMING

### Library and Archives Canada (LAC)

LAC now has an index and images for the **1881 Canadian census on-line**. FamilySearch provided the index and Statistics Canada paid for the digitization of the census:

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/census-1881/index-e.html>

The 1891 Canadian census is digitized and indexed, but is currently only available at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com). The 1916 Canadian prairie census is available on microfilm now at LAC and copies should be available at Cloverdale Branch of the Surrey Public Library soon.

**The Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online** has been updated to include those who died before 1930 or whose last known date of activity falls from 1000 - 1930. Searchable:

<http://www.biographi.ca>

### Ancestry.com (TGN)

**Ancestry.Com** has a new search ‘experience’. Again, ancestry offered a webinar, July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008 to familiarise users with new features. A replay of the webinar is now available on-line. (You will need to use Real Media Audio or Windows Media Audio.)

Ancestry.com Search Enhancements Webinar:

<http://w.on24.com/r.htm?e=112633&s=1&k=F61A5B2CBEC642037CADDF67687EA541>

Ancestry’s blog has a lot of discussion about the ‘new search’ with Anne Mitchell, one of Ancestry’s product managers. To see the comments and her responses go to:

<http://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2008/08/04/the-new-search-interface>

Ancestry just launched a **Chinese website, Jiapu.cn**, which has 12,000 Jia Pu or Zu Pu (genealogy records) from the Shanghai Library’s collection. Some of these records were collected in the 1930’s; some had to be later rescued from paper mills. The Library has had a public genealogy room since 1996 and continues to add to its collections.

Previously another company, Cybersia (or Chineseroots, ChineseKin) offered some zu pu on-line, but this is the only major collection on-line now.

“Family treasures” by Xu Jitao, *Shanghai Star*, 24 February 2005, on-line:

<http://app1.chinadaily.com.cn/star/2005/0224/fo5-1.html>

The Shanghai Library (English information): [www.library.sh.cn/english](http://www.library.sh.cn/english)

Jiapu.cn (no English): [www.jiapu.cn](http://www.jiapu.cn)

## **National Archives of the U.K. (TNA)**

New this month, **World War One Indian Army medal index cards** and **Royal Naval officers' service records** 1840s on. Available through Documents Online, pay for view: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/default.asp>

TNA has also announced a new partnership with FindMyPast.com and FamilySearch.org to digitize series of records for both Merchant Seamen (1835-1844, 1835-1941), Chelsea Pensioners, (1806-1915) and Militia Attestations (160-1913). FamilySearch will be digitizing these and FindMyPast will provide indexes and transcriptions.

## **FindMyPast.com**

FindMyPast continues to add more **parish record indexes and transcriptions** to its offerings (1538 on), all in association with Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS). No baptisms yet. Check the website for up to date information on counties and parishes covered: [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)

## **National Archives and Records Administration of the United States (NARA)**

NARA has just updated its slide show tutorial, "**Beginning Your Genealogical Research at the National Archives and Records Administration**". Also new is a brochure, "**Finding Information on Personal Participation in World War II**."

See the National Archives (U.S.) genealogy section: [www.archives.gov/genealogy](http://www.archives.gov/genealogy)

There is a broad array of other guides and tools in this section, including on-line articles from the National Archives' magazine, *Prologue*, for instance, "By Way of Canada: U.S. Records of Immigration Across the U.S.-Canadian Border, 1895-1954 (St. Albans Lists)" by Marian L. Smith (*Prologue*, Fall 2000, Vol. 32, No. 3) and "'Blisters on My Heels, Corns on My Toes'": Taking the 1930 Census of Population" by David M. Pemberton (*Prologue*, Winter 2002, Vol. 34, No. 4).

## **New Australian and New Zealand Websites and Databases**

**WikiNorthia, Documenting Life In Melbourne's North**, Australia, is a collaboration between several local library associations: <http://www.wikinorthia.net.au>

**British Convict transportation registers database, 1787-1867**. Details for 123,000 convicts. State Library of Queensland, Australia: <http://www.slq.qld.gov.au/info/fh/convicts>

**Rollo Arnold, New Zealand historian's**, articles on immigration and history (pdfs): <http://www.geocities.com/galtm/>

## South African Database

**British Concentration Camps of the South African War, 1900 -1902.** Searchable database of those listed in camp registers: <http://media1.mweb.co.za/bccdb/default.asp>

## Francophone Network

**The Réseau francophone des bibliothèques nationales numériques** (Francophone network for digital national libraries, or RFBNN) has a new internet portal which will be officially launched in October. RFBNN includes the national libraries of Belgium, Canada, France, Luxembourg, Quebec and Switzerland, and the Library of Alexandria. On-line offerings include newspapers, journals, books, maps, drawings and archival materials. Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec designed and developed the portal: <http://www.rfbnn.org>

## GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY IN THE NEWS

**Canadian genealogy and the Olympics.** British Columbia's Monica Pinette, competing in the pentathlon event, knows her genealogy. She wore her Métis sash at the 2004 Olympic closing ceremony, but won't this year. "Politics unravels aboriginal athlete's plan to wear traditional garb" by Rod Mickleburgh, *Globe and Mail* on-line, August 19, 2008:  
[http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080819.wolymsash19/BNSStory/Entertainment/?cid=al\\_gam\\_nletter\\_newsUp](http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20080819.wolymsash19/BNSStory/Entertainment/?cid=al_gam_nletter_newsUp)

Do you have London, England ancestors? The Federation of Family History Societies (FFHS) has endorsed the campaign to save the **Bancroft Local History Archive and Local History Library** (Tower Hamlets). For news articles on this, see the *East London Advertiser*:

<http://www.eastlondonadvertiser.co.uk/content/towerhamlets/advertiser/BancroftLibrary/default.aspx>

There is a 'Downing Street petition' on-line as well for British citizens or residents:  
<http://petitions.number10.gov.uk/Bancroft-Road>

**"Speculum Gregis, ...inhabitants of the Parish of Croydon in the County of Cambridgeshire [England]...1843"** begun by Reverend Francis Fulford, is back on-line at Steve Odell's website. Canadian connections here, as Francis Fulford was later Lord Bishop of Montreal, then Metropolitan Bishop of Canada:  
[http://www.arminford.com/speculum\\_gregis/intro.htm](http://www.arminford.com/speculum_gregis/intro.htm)

## **University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, Scotland – on-line Diploma for Postgraduate programme in Genealogical Studies**

This programme began in 2006 and is the only professional postgraduate university qualification on Genealogy, Family History, Heraldry, Records and Archives. The Postgraduate Certificate can be taken either on campus or on-line, and the Postgraduate Diploma will be fully online next session. Application deadline for January 2008 - 13 October 2008. Details: [www.strath.ac.uk/cll/cpd/genealogy](http://www.strath.ac.uk/cll/cpd/genealogy)

Also sponsored by the University of Strathclyde – the **International Genealogy Festival, 21 to Friday 24 July 2009** – associated with Homecoming Scotland 2009. Featuring the Whigmaleery (exhibits and stands), the Coarum (lectures and sessions) and The Come-All-Ye Ceilidh. More information: [www.strath.ac.uk/homecomingscotland](http://www.strath.ac.uk/homecomingscotland)

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### **FAVOURITE WEBSITES**

British Columbia's Simon Fraser University Pipe Band just won the World Championship competition at Glasgow Green, Scotland. The White Spot Pipe juvenile band came in 6<sup>th</sup> in its division.

**Did you have a British Columbia piper in the family?** Check the B.C. Piper's Association website. There you will find piping photographs from 1891, a summary of the Association's activities since its inception in 1932, and minutes of the Association from 1932 to 1969.

B.C. Pipers' Association: [www.bcpipers.org](http://www.bcpipers.org)

S.F.U. Pipe Band – there's history here too, since 1966: [www.sfupipeband.com](http://www.sfupipeband.com)

White Spot Pipe Band and Highland Dancers, since 1956: [www.whitespotpipeband.org](http://www.whitespotpipeband.org)

**Derbyshire, England connections?** See Michael Spencer's "Yesterday's Journey" for abstracts and transcriptions from all kinds of records, including those documenting migration and emigration. Updated regularly. Searchable:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~spire/Yesterday/LawOrder.htm>

**www.LostCousins.com** is completely free to all from August 22 to September 1, 2008. If you match up with someone's family, you'll be able to contact the submitter through the site – usually that's only for subscribers. LostCousins now supports the 1841 and 1881 censuses for England and Wales, the 1881 censuses for Canada and Scotland and for 1880 in the U.S. If you haven't been to the site before, here is an overview:

[http://lostcousins.com/pages/info/how\\_to.mhtml](http://lostcousins.com/pages/info/how_to.mhtml)

Do you do Scottish research? LostCousins founder, Peter Calver, is asking researchers to ask Ancestry.com to show the page numbers of 1881 entries in the Ancestry index for the 1881 Scottish census. (Ancestry used to show these in the index.) In the meantime, you can find 1881 census page numbers at Scotlandspeople or on FamilySearch's CD ROM index of the 1881 British census (available at the BCGS Walter Draycott Library).

## Favourite Newspapers and Newspaper Indexes On-Line

Check **Newspaper Abstracts** regularly, over 1,100 new pages each month. Currently covers U.S.A., Canada, Ireland, Scotland, Australia, England, Norway and Wales. Searchable. It's easy to *contribute* abstracts yourself too: [www.newspaperabstracts.com](http://www.newspaperabstracts.com)

Was anyone in your family deaf? Gallaudet University Archives (Washington, D.C., U.S.A.) offers '**The Silent Worker**' 1888 -1929 on-line free (originally called "The Deaf Mute Times"). This was a national U.S. paper, containing some articles and contributions from Canada, Australia, etc. Searchable:  
[www.aladin.wrlc.org/gsd/collect/gasw/gasw.shtml](http://www.aladin.wrlc.org/gsd/collect/gasw/gasw.shtml).

The Gallaudet University Library houses the world's largest collection of deaf materials and offers resources on-line for deaf research.

**Quebec newspapers on-line**, Quebec National Library & Archives website, free. English overview:

[www.banq.qc.ca/portal/dt/collections/collection\\_numerique/coll\\_numerique.jsp?bnq\\_langue=en](http://www.banq.qc.ca/portal/dt/collections/collection_numerique/coll_numerique.jsp?bnq_langue=en)

Digital newspapers, English version:

[http://www.banq.qc.ca/portal/dt/collections/collection\\_numerique/archives/archives.jsp?categorie=6](http://www.banq.qc.ca/portal/dt/collections/collection_numerique/archives/archives.jsp?categorie=6)

**Paper of Record** also has a number of 19<sup>th</sup> century Quebec newspapers. Free:  
[www.paperofrecord.com](http://www.paperofrecord.com)

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**The Fine Print & Contact Information** Please send submissions c/o the Editor by e-mail: [Editor@bcgs.ca](mailto:Editor@bcgs.ca) or by regular mail (see below). Contributions may be published either in the e-newsletter or the society's journal, *The British Columbia Genealogist*.

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