



THE OFFSPRING

BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY E-NEWSLETTER

May, 2008 Volume 3 #1

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

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B.C.G.S. EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

**British Research Seminar with Chris Watts, Burnaby, B.C.
May 10, 2008 - all day**

Topics:

- Some Underused Sources for English Genealogy
- Tracing Birth, Deaths & Marriages at Sea
- World War I Army Service Records at The National Archives of the U.K. & Elsewhere

Details: www.bcgs.ca

To register, call Susan Snalam at 604-273-8209 or contact Eunice Robinson by e-mail:
eunice@dccnet.com

B.C.G.S. MEETINGS & SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

See the B.C.G.S. web calendar for details and for group facilitators' contact information:
www.bcgs.ca/Calendar/current.htm

General Meetings – Second Wednesday of every month, 7:30 pm at Edmonds Community Centre, 7282 Kingsway (Kingsway & Edmonds), Burnaby.

May 14, 2008 Group sessions: Beginners Group - Getting Started; Quebec Group; English Group - Robin Hooper will give a presentation on “English women who brought their families to Canada and India” and there will be a round table discussion on travel and research in England.

June 11, 2008 Group sessions: Beginners Group; Canadian Group – British Columbia; Metis Group.

Quebec Group – Saturday, May 10 and June 14, 2008 at the B.C.G.S. Walter Draycott Library & Resource Centre, 10 am - noon. Unit 211, 12837 - 76th Avenue, Surrey.

Scandinavian Group – Saturday, May 17, 2008 Scandinavian Community Centre, 6540 Thomas Street, Burnaby 1 - 3 pm. Note* in June, the Group will be at the Scandinavian Midsummer Festival June 21-22.

Discussion Group, Downtown Vancouver, Tuesday May 13 and June 10 in the Vancouver Public Library Atrium, 1 pm, near the Blendz coffee shop. Free. V.P.L. Atrium, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver. Contact Diane Rogers: diane_rogers@shaw.ca or 604 724 8744

B.C.G.S. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteer at Events -Volunteers are needed for 2 or 4 hour shifts at our B.C.G.S. display tables at the following events in May and June. You'll meet new people, contribute to our society's outreach programmes and you'll have fun!

European Festival, May 31, Burnaby
Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, June 21-22, Burnaby
B.C. Highland Games, June 28, Coquitlam

The European Festival, Scandinavian Community Centre, Burnaby, B.C., Saturday, May 31, 2008 - all day. Entertainment, food and more. These countries will be represented: Austria, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Metis, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, and Ukraine. Details: www.eurofestbc.ca/index.html

Scandinavian Midsummer Festival, Scandinavian Community Centre, Burnaby, B.C., June 20-22, 2008. Volunteers needed both Saturday and Sunday. Dancing, choirs, musicians, great food, even 'real' Vikings to talk to! Details: <http://www.scandinavianmidsummerfestival.org>

B.C. Highland Games, Percy Perry Stadium, Coquitlam, B.C., Saturday, June 28, 2008 - all day. Bagpipers, fiddlers, dancers, drummers, athletes, and good food, Scottish clans and society displays - oh, and did we mention the pipe bands parading?

Details: <http://www.bchighlandgames.com>

To volunteer at any or all of these events, please contact Barbara Stanyer at 604 253 0210 or by e-mail: family@surfvancouver.com

Volunteer at the BCGS Walter Draycott Library and Resource Centre – a Lower Mainland person, experienced with computers, is needed to volunteer regularly at the Library. Should be familiar with networking. Please contact Bob Daniel at:

Webmaster@bcgs.ca or Betty Allen, Library Administrator 604 502 9119.

MORE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

B.C. Historical Federation Conference, May 8-11, 2008, New Westminster, B.C.
Inn at Westminster Quay, 900 Quayside Drive.

Learn about British Columbia's early capitals, Fort Langley and Derby. Tour historic New Westminster and the Fort Langley area. Meet B.C.G.S. members at the conference Book Fair which is open to the public on Friday, May 9, from noon to 5 pm.

For details, see the B.C.H.F. website: www.bchistory.ca

Members of the Royal Engineers Living History Group will set up camp on the grounds of historic Irving House, 302 Royal Ave., New Westminster, on Saturday, May 10, 2008. Admission to this event by donation.

“Hilda's Story: Discovering a Grandmother I Never Knew” – a Herstory Cafe event - Wednesday May 21, 2008 at the Railway Club (upstairs), 579 Dunsmuir St, Vancouver (at Seymour). 7-9 pm

Lisa Smedman, the *Vancouver Courier's* newspaper history writer, talks about her journey to discover her Finnish grandmother and her adventures in early BC, beginning in the 1920's. Free, drop-in only. Food available for purchase.

Herstory Cafe web site: www.herstorycafe.ca

New Views on Canada's Jews: A Day of Discovery, Sunday, June 1, 2008 at the Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver, 950 West 41st Ave.

Sessions include Canadian Resources for Genealogy with Earl Lesk and Gayle Pelman, Jews in B.C., Canadian Jewish musical traditions and special tours of the Jewish Museum and Archives. In association with the Association for Canadian Jewish Studies Conference, U.B.C. Vancouver, June 1-3, 2008.

More info: http://www.jewishmuseum.ca/info/current_events/acjs-event

'Beginning Your Family History' with M. Diane Rogers, Thursday, June 19, 2008,
7 - 9 pm, Burnaby Village Museum, 501 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, B.C.

Learn how to get started and how to organize your family tree. Hear tips about connecting with long-lost relatives and about using on-line websites and databases, all without spending a fortune. Info & Registration, Museum office 604 293 6500 or website:

http://www.burnaby.ca/cityhall/departments/departments_parks/prksrc_fclts/prksrc_fclts_brnbyv/bvmprograms.html

Restoration/Preservation Events & Cemetery Tours at Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby B.C.

Quilt Preservation / Restoration, Thursday, June 12, 2008, 7:30 – 9 pm

Heirloom pieces can be fragile so learn to identify what conditions are harmful to textiles so they are preserved for future generations. Diane Stevenson will cover cleaning options, displaying and storage of pieces.

Conservation of Digital Photographs, Monday, August 4, 2008, 7:30 – 9 pm

Conservator Rosaleen Hill will enlighten you on every aspect of how to best enjoy and preserve this new technology.

Ocean View Cemetery Walking Tour with Maurice Guibord

June 14, Saturday, noon - 4 pm

Opened in 1919, this cemetery includes the spectacular 1928 Abbey Mausoleum, possibly the largest in Canada, and the 1936 Garden Chapel, a replica of a small Norman church.

Forest Lawn Cemetery Walking Tour with Maurice Guibord

July 12, Saturday, 1- 4 pm

From 1936, this cemetery touted its crystal pools and flowered rockeries as 'God's Acres,' carved from the primeval wilderness.

Details & registration, Museum office 604 293 6500 or website: http://www.burnaby.ca/cityhall/departments/departments_parks/prksrc_fclts/prksrc_fclts_brnbyv/bvmprograms.html

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NEW WEBSITES & DATABASES ON-LINE

A London criminal, victim or police officer or court witness in your family tree?

Proceedings of the Old Bailey with information about 197,745 criminal trials from 1674-1913. Another 80 years of trials have now been added, as well as the text of most of the 'Ordinary of Newgate's Accounts' (biographies of prisoners executed at Tyburn, 1690-1772). More will be added soon. Use the simple search or the more detailed searches, including those for personal names. Walter Saggars, for instance, an Islington greengrocer, had his pony, a barrow, harness, a tarpaulin and a rug stolen in November, 1907.

Note that the original Old Bailey website is still active but will be withdrawn in December. The new web address is: www.oldbaileyonline.org

THE TIMES (London, England)

The Times Online has a free introductory offer right now – all issues from 1785-1985 are searchable on-line. Interactive timeline and tour. Registration required, but free: <http://archive.timesonline.co.uk/tol/archive>

One-Step Tools for U.S.A. Passenger Records

Stephen Morse has recently added new one-step search tools for these National Archives and Records of the U.S.A. (NARA) databases: Germans to America (1850-1897), Italians to America (1855-1900), Russians to America (1834-1897). See these in the 'Other Ports of Immigration' section: www.stevemorse.org

World Vital Records

World Vital Records is now partnering with a wide array of organizations, including ArchiveCD Books Canada (already 100% of the collection), Archives CD Books USA and Australia, Eneclann (Ireland), Godfrey Memorial Library, FindMyPast.com, British Origins, the Genealogical Publishing Company and the Immigrant Ships Transcribers Guild. All new databases free for the first 10 days.

Coming soon, for example, *Biographical Sketches of Loyalists of the American Revolution*, Volumes 1 and 2

World Vital Records Recent Databases:

www.worldvitalrecords.com/recentcontentlisting.aspx

Gazetteer for Scotland

The Gazetteer for Scotland has significantly upgraded its offerings – with new maps and even population figures for many areas 1831-1991, and for most in 2001. The Gazetteer is a joint project of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society and the University of Edinburgh.

Website: www.geo.ed.ac.uk/scotgaz/gaztitle.html

The National Archives of the U.K. (TNA)

New: Wills of Royal Naval Seamen, 1786 – 1882, Southwell Union Workhouse, Nottinghamshire, correspondence from 1834 – 1871, and service records of the Women's Royal Air Force, 1914 – 1919. Website: www.nationalarchives.gov.uk
Here's an article about some very recently released TNA documents - a World War II case concerning Teigh, Rutland in England. "*The parish gossip and the fascist vicar*" by Dan Bell, BBC News: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk/7379792.stm>

And coming soon – TNA British Chelsea Pensioners and Militia records (1760-1914) and Merchant Seamen records (1835-1941) on FindMyPast.com and FamilySearch.org. This three year project is a partnership – "*FamilySearch will digitize the records on site at The National Archives, and Findmypast.com will create indexes and transcriptions to enable online patrons to easily search the records and images at both www.findmypast.com and www.familysearch.org.*" See the Family Search press release, dated 2 May 2008, for more about this:
http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Home/News/frameset_news.asp?PAGE=Press/2008-5-2_British_Historical_Records_.asp

Irish Merchant Seamen, Britain 1918 – 1921

So far 11300 surnames are available, up to "E". Based on a collection of data from the Southampton Civic Archives, on about 20,000 Irish seamen. Includes officers, mates, engineers, boatswains, seamen of any rating, wireless operators, apprentices, boys, cooks, stewards, stewardesses, pantrymen, carpenters, firemen, trimmers. Search by surname and forename or by identity number. Some photographs included on-line. David Snook: <http://www.irishmariners.ie/index.php>

Families of Old Hawaii

Photographs, Obituary Index 1929-1950, surname database, history, dictionary, links. Charles Ano: <http://web.mac.com/gencea/Ohana/Home.html>

FamilySearch - The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints

Family Search Indexing projects right now include records from Ireland, Mexico, the U.S.A. and Venezuela. Soon added will be records from Bristol and Cheshire in England and Quebec. The B.C. Genealogical Society is encouraging members to volunteer. Please let us know if you are already a FamilySearch indexer. Anyone can register and participate.

FamilySearch Indexing: www.familysearchindexing.org/en/index.jsp

Records already indexed can be searched and browsed right now -including many U.S.A records and some for Canada, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany and Spain. You will need to register. Free. Go to: <http://search.labs.familysearch.org/recordsearch>

FamilySearch's New Wiki

FamilySearch now has a wiki site with articles and forums for research in most areas of the world. After you register (free), you can contribute articles, edit others' articles or post your questions or comments. Right now, most articles are 'stubs' – that is, very basic or empty articles used to encourage contributors to participate. Read over the 'Get Started...' section first, including the 'Wiki Words'.

Do you think this is a worthwhile enterprise or does it perhaps duplicate information already on the web? Website: <https://wiki.familysearch.org>

RootsWeb – E- Mailing Lists & More

What's new on RootsWeb.com? <http://whatsnew.rootsweb.com>

First there's a new web address: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com but the www.rootsweb.com addresses will continue in use. The Generations Network (Ancestry.com) sponsors RootsWeb.com, which is the largest free source of genealogical information on the web.

New RootsWeb e-mailing lists last month included one for the WALLIS-AND-FUTUNA-ISLANDS and one for the COOK-ISLANDS.

Among the new RootsWeb web sites are the re-launched Wiltshire Online Parish Clerks (OPC) Project: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~engwopcp and the CenEuroGenWeb site: www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~ceneurgw

War Brides Exhibition, Royal British Columbia Museum, May – September, 2008

War Brides: One Way Passage, an exhibition by Bev Tosh, is at the museum, May 9 – September 1, 2008. Some photographs on-line: www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Exhibit_Gall/War_Brides.aspx

Early History Collections, University of Victoria, B.C.

New – an eclectic sampling of maps, books, pamphlets and ephemera on the Victoria area's early history. University of Victoria Special Collections and Archives: http://gateway.uvic.ca/spcoll/sc_digital/sc_digital.html

Colonial Correspondence of Vancouver Island and British Columbia, University of Victoria. Searchable, still 'under development': <http://lettuce.tapor.uvic.ca:8081/coldesp/site/index.htm>

Some issues of the *British Colonist*, 1859-1860, are digitized and available on the University of Victoria Library's Contentdm website: <http://contentdm.library.uvic.ca:8000/cdm4/browse.php?CISOROOT=%2Fcolonist>

***Victoria's Victoria* Web Site, British Columbia**

'News' features a selection of history projects, including "Sisters of St. Ann – The First Ten Years" and "A View of Victoria: Riding the Trolley through downtown in 1907":
<http://www.victoriasvictoria.ca>

Vancouver City Archives, British Columbia

Newly digitized - undelivered letters from the early 1900s, Yip family and Yip Sang Ltd. fonds, The Yip Sang Correspondence Project:
www.vancouver.ca/tyclerk/archives/index.htm

University of British Columbia

Stanley Park Photograph Collection, 1912, Rosetti Studios, University of British Columbia Archives: http://angel.library.ubc.ca/cdm4/index_coll0610-10.php?CISOROOT=/coll0610-10

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INTERESTING & USEFUL WEBSITES

In the summer, we'd like to feature British Columbia websites. Please send your favourites to the Editor: editor@bcgs.ca

Southwestern British Columbia GenWeb Site

The Southwestern BC (Canada) GenWeb site is being refurbished and an "Immigrant Families" page will be added. If you have a family history web site that concerns ancestors born outside Canada, who eventually settled in British Columbia, you can send the URL and a brief description to be included. There will also be a "Help Wanted" page to which you can add your 'brickwall' British Columbia ancestors or connections. Please contact Terri by e-mail: anderson.terri71@gmail.com

Interested in Using Timelines?

OurTimelines.com generates timelines you can use for free on websites or in other publications, based on the birth and death dates you supply:

www.ourtimelines.com/index.shtml

Steve Browning's *WhoWhatWhen* will give you more some ideas for timelines, based on the lives of famous people: <http://www.sbrowning.com/whowhatwhen/index.php>

Blank free timeline forms set up in MS Word or .pdf, ready to use, from My Ancestors Found: http://www.myancestorsfound.com/store/free_docs.php#timeline

Looking for British Columbia and Canadian timelines? Check these out.

The British Columbia Archives Time Machine:
www.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/exhibits/timemach/main.htm

The History of Metropolitan Vancouver, Chronology 1757 – 1994, Chuck Davis:
www.vancouverhistory.ca/chronology.html

Victoria Timeline, Victoria's Victoria website: <http://web.uvic.ca/vv>

CanLine Canadian Chronology, Canadawiki:

http://canadawiki.org/index.php/CanLine_Canadian_Chronology_-_by_Dates

Today in Canadian History, Sympatico MSN: http://www1.sympatico.ca/cgi-bin/on_this_day

Significant Dates in Canadian Military History, Directorate of History and Heritage, D.N.D.: http://www.dnd.ca/dhh/collections/sig_dates/engraph/home_e.asp?cat=7

Moments of Chinese Canadian History, Chinese Canadian National Council, Toronto Chapter: www.ccnc.ca/toronto/history/timeline.html

Historical Timeline: Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs:

www.ubcic.bc.ca/Resources/timeline.htm

Japanese Canadian history timeline, from JapaneseCanadianHistory.net:

www.japanesecanadianhistory.net/reference_timeline.htm

More links to Canadian timelines

- The BC History Internet/Web Site:

<http://victoria.tc.ca/Resources/bchistory-chronos.html>

- British Columbia History Portal: <http://bchistoryportal.tc.ca/SPT--Home.php>

GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY IN THE NEWS

“Fairbanks is home to a large, and growing, group of genealogists”

by **Mary Beth Smetzer, May 5, 2008**, Fairbanks Alaska's News-Miner.com. A nice article about members of the Fairbanks (Alaska) Genealogical Society with good advice for all: <http://newsminer.com/news/2008/may/05/fairbanks-home-large-and-growing-group-genealogist>

Might you be related to an Alaskan ‘sourdough’? Check out the Fairbanks Genealogical Society's databases and information on-line: www.ptialaska.net/~fgs

“City to Close Maritime Museum” by **Jeff Lee, Vancouver Sun, May 6, 2008**

The Vancouver Maritime Museum Society, which operates the Maritime Museum in Vancouver, is in a dispute with the City of Vancouver, which owns the collections housed in the Museum. One plan is to move parts of the collection to the National Maritime Centre proposed for North Vancouver.

For those with family maritime connections to the Pacific Northwest particularly, the Museum holds several unique and valuable collections, including *The Register of Seaman Shipped* - 47 volumes documenting seamen out of the Port of Vancouver from 1898 to 1967.

Vancouver Sun article: www.canada.com/vancouvernews/news/westcoastnews/story.html?id=4804b3c2-9599-4ca0-bfdd-d1f783b1fd13&k=96097

W. B. and M. H. Chung Library, Vancouver Maritime Museum:
www.vancouvermaritimemuseum.com/page172.htm

March 12, 2008 –Library and Archives Canada (LAC) and The Generations Network (TGN, often known as Ancestry.com) propose to collaborate.

LAC has posted a notice about its proposed collaboration with TGN in scanning and making available public documents. *“LAC is committed to making as much of its collection as possible available online. LAC has determined that genealogical records are a priority.”* This is *“an opportunity to comment”* although no deadline dates for comment are given. LAC and TGN have already co-operated in several projects to index Canadian records.

LAC/TGN Project Outline: <http://collectioncanada.ca/whats-new/013-331-e.html>

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The Fine Print & Contact Information Please send submissions c/o the Editor by e-mail: 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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