



## ***THE OFFSPRING***

BRITISH COLUMBIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY E-NEWSLETTER  
November, 2007 Volume 2 # 3

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, visit: [www.bcgs.ca](http://www.bcgs.ca)

B.C.G.S. Membership –It’s renewal time for 2008! See [www.bcgs.ca](http://www.bcgs.ca) for renewal forms.

From a WorldVitalRecords.com customer survey - 84% feel genealogical and historical societies are important to their family history research; 64% belong to at least one genealogical society. (11% belong to five or more.) *In addition, 70% of those who do not currently belong to a genealogy society would like to join one.*

Think about giving a membership to the B.C. Genealogical Society as a holiday present to friends this year. (Survey information from Paul Allen (the lesser)’s Blog - “What our genealogy customers want” October 19, 2007:

[www.paulallen.net/2007/10/19/what-our-genealogy-customers-want](http://www.paulallen.net/2007/10/19/what-our-genealogy-customers-want)

### *The Offspring*

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## **B.C.G.S. EVENTS & ACTIVITIES**

GENERAL MEETINGS – Edmonds Community Centre, 7282 Kingsway (at Kingsway and Edmonds), Burnaby V5E 1G3

November 14<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm - Beginners, Canada and Scottish groups meet. Last day to enter the ‘Most Improved Genealogist’ contest. (Book donations for the December pocket book sale cheerfully accepted at the November or December meetings.) Boutique – the Boutique will not be at the December meeting, so be sure to visit at this meeting.

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm – Christmas Social. Presentation of 2007’s ‘Most Improved’ Genealogy winners. Refreshments and displays. Don’t miss the pocket book sale.

### **B.C.G.S. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:**

Web calendar: [www.bcgs.ca/Calendar/current.htm](http://www.bcgs.ca/Calendar/current.htm)

QUEBEC GROUP--- Meets December 8<sup>th</sup>, 10 am till noon, at the Walter Draycott Library and Research Centre in the Board Room. Contact Facilitator Linda Maitland.

BEGINNERS, CANADA and SCOTTISH GROUPS - B.C.G.S. general meeting, November 14<sup>th</sup>, after the general meeting. Topics: Beginners - Census Records with Eunice Robinson and Lorraine Irving; Canada Group - Researching at the B.C. Archives by Diane Rogers.

To contact any B.C.G.S. Special Interest Facilitator, see: [www.bcgs.ca/IntGrpFac.htm](http://www.bcgs.ca/IntGrpFac.htm)

DISCUSSION GROUP, DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER---Meets November 13<sup>th</sup> and December 11<sup>th</sup> in the Vancouver Public Library Atrium, 1 pm, near the Blenz coffee shop. Informal; free. V.P.L. Atrium, 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**

“LAWYERS WITHOUT RIGHTS” an exhibit chronicling the fate of Jewish lawyers before and during the Holocaust. Harbour Centre Tower Atrium, 555 West Hastings Street (at Seymour), downtown Vancouver, Nov 1<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>, 2007, 8 am – 8 pm daily. Free tour November 18, 2007, 2 pm. Exhibit produced by the German Federal Bar and the German Jurists Association and presented by the Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre. Free public forum, Thursday, November 22, 2007, 6 pm at S.F.U. Harbour Centre, sponsored by the Law Society of B.C. Register early by e-mail: [forum2007@lsbc.org](mailto:forum2007@lsbc.org) or call the Law Society of B.C., 604 -669 -2533

Exhibit details: <http://vancouver.ujcfedweb.org/page.html?ArticleID=160746>

Vancouver Holocaust Education Centre: [www.vhec.org/](http://www.vhec.org/)

*TEN LOST YEARS*, a play with music based on true stories about Canada's depression years as written by Barry Broadfoot, November 16-24, 2007. Presented by Douglas College Theatre Programme's 2008 graduating class; Director, Cheryl Swan. Play compiled by Cheryl Swan and Scott Swan. Douglas College Performing Arts Theatre, Room 4100 (fourth floor, north side), New Westminster Campus, 700 Royal Avenue, New Westminster. Time and ticket information: [www.douglas.bc.ca/programs/theatre-stagecraft/current.html](http://www.douglas.bc.ca/programs/theatre-stagecraft/current.html)

THE MEMORY FESTIVAL, Vancouver, 2007-2008. Events and activities focusing on public and private memory, and on the questions that surround acts of memory and forgetting. First event - The Harbour Centre Downtown (Vancouver) Memory Project. Write about your memories of downtown Vancouver; free. Submission deadline, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Festival website: [www.geist.com/memoryfestival](http://www.geist.com/memoryfestival)

"GENETICS MATTERS II, THE DIFFERENCES AMONG US" Thursday, November 15, 2007. 7 – 9 pm at Science World - 1455 Quebec St., Vancouver. Genome BC invites you to participate in a lively discussion about genetic differences, then the audience will participate in a "CSI Vancouver" activity identifying DNA fingerprints to determine paternity, solve cases, etc. More information and registration on the Genome BC website: [www.genomebc.ca](http://www.genomebc.ca)

"Ashes and Bones", C.B.C. Radio One, December 26<sup>th</sup>, Ideas. Marian Botsford Fraser "explores what happens to the identity of families and communities when graveyards become anachronisms and the remains of individuals are thrown to the winds". Also available on CD. More information: [www.cbc.ca/ideas/features/ashes-bones/index.html](http://www.cbc.ca/ideas/features/ashes-bones/index.html)

### **Plan ahead for 2008**

THE CZECHOSLOVAK GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY INTERNATIONAL'S 2008 GENEALOGICAL AND CULTURAL SYMPOSIUM, Friday April 11 - Saturday April 12, 2008, Seattle, Washington, U.S.A.

Friday evening's speaker is nationally known genealogist and author, Cyndi Howells. Saturday's presenters include Professor James Felak, University of Washington, Shon Edwards, East European Specialist for the Genealogical Society of Utah and Leo Baca, a well-known Czech genealogist. Other speakers include Chuck Kusak on the History of the Kusak Cut Glass Works, Daniela Sipkova Mahoney on Czech and Slovak Easter Traditions, and Jaroslava Soldanova from the University of Washington's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. 2008 is the Czechoslovak Genealogical Society International's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Website: [www.cgsi.org](http://www.cgsi.org)

A DAY WITH CHRIS WATTS, MAY 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 – presented by the B.C.G.S. Chris Watts has written extensively on British genealogy and is The National Archives (TNA) of the U.K.'s expert on the merchant navy. Details soon.

For an introduction, listen to his podcast on “Tracing British army deaths, marriages and births, 1761-1913” on the TNA website: [www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/rss/podcasts.xml](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/rss/podcasts.xml)

BRITISH COLUMBIA HISTORICAL FEDERATION CONFERENCE, May 8-11<sup>th</sup>, 2008, New Westminster. The B.C. Genealogical Society is a member of the Federation and will be participating in this conference. For details, see: [www.bchistory.ca](http://www.bchistory.ca)

“LEAVING FOOTPRINTS: past, present and future”, Washington State Genealogical Society conference, May 16-17<sup>th</sup>, Mount Vernon, Washington State, U.S.A. Sponsored by the Skagit Valley Genealogical Society. Featured speaker - Sandra Hargreaves. Website: [www.rootsweb.com/~wasgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~wasgs)

"SAIL INTO YOUR PAST ABOARD THE QUEEN MARY!" Thursday-Saturday, August 7-9, 2008 at the Queen Mary Hotel in Long Beach, California, 20<sup>th</sup> annual conference, sponsored by the British Isles Family History Society - U. S. A. (BIFHS-USA). Information and registration: [www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa](http://www.rootsweb.com/~bifhsusa)

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### **LEST WE FORGET – A Brief Selection of Memorials**

THE CANADIAN VIRTUAL WAR MEMORIAL. If a member of your family is commemorated here, you can add personal photographs, letters or postcards, information about military service, medals, decorations and awards, photographs of personal artifacts or of grave markers, etc: [www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca](http://www.virtualmemorial.gc.ca)

CANADIAN WAR MEMORIALS ON THE WWW: [www.stemnet.nf.ca/monuments](http://www.stemnet.nf.ca/monuments)

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION, a joint governmental organization charged with marking and maintaining graves of individuals in the Commonwealth of Nations' military forces who died in the two World Wars, and building memorials to those with no known graves, and keeping records of war dead. On-line databases: [www.cwgc.org](http://www.cwgc.org)

SOUTH AFRICAN WAR MEMORIALS, NEW ZEALAND, History and photographs, New Zealand History online: [www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/war-memorials/south-african-boer-war-memorials](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/war/war-memorials/south-african-boer-war-memorials).

THE INTERNATIONAL ARMED FORCES MEMORIAL by Richard Howman. Search the site or submit information or photographs: [www.wargraves.org.uk](http://www.wargraves.org.uk)

VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIALS (most in U.S.A.): [www.vietvet.org/vietmems.htm](http://www.vietvet.org/vietmems.htm)

## **A Few History and Research Sites**

“THE ARTS AND WAR”, C.B.C. feature, various presentations on-line, on radio and television: [www.cbc.ca/entertainment](http://www.cbc.ca/entertainment)

‘CONFLICT AND WAR’ radio and television presentations on-line, including “Canada’s Forgotten P.O.W. Camps” and “Forgotten Heroes: Canada and the Korean War”, C.B.C. Digital Archives: [http://archives.cbc.ca/IDT-1-71/conflict\\_war/](http://archives.cbc.ca/IDT-1-71/conflict_war/)

CANADIAN BATTLEFIELD MEMORIALS RESTORATION PROJECT:  
<http://www.vac-acc.gc.ca/remembers/sub.cfm?source=memorials/cbmr>

“Black days over for Canadian war memorial in England”: Canada’s Veterans Affairs has agreed to maintain the rundown war monument in London. C.B.C. News, Thursday, November 1, 2007: [www.cbc.ca/world/story/2007/11/01/black-memorial.html](http://www.cbc.ca/world/story/2007/11/01/black-memorial.html)

WAR ARTISTS FROM THE FIRST WORLD WAR, Archives of Ontario:  
[www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/exhibits/war\\_artists/index.html](http://www.archives.gov.on.ca/english/exhibits/war_artists/index.html)

“THE BATTLE OF THE SCHELDT – VICTORY ON THE DYKES” from ‘This Week in History’ Parks Canada. Photographs and text. This battle was declared a National Historic Event in 2005: [www.pc.gc.ca/apps/cseh-twih/index\\_e.asp](http://www.pc.gc.ca/apps/cseh-twih/index_e.asp)

AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION: [www.abmc.gov/home.php](http://www.abmc.gov/home.php)

WESTERN FRONT ASSOCIATION, World War I library and map room on site. The association has branches all over the world, including 3 in Canada:  
[www.westernfrontassociation.com](http://www.westernfrontassociation.com)

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## **B.C.G.S. WEBSITE**

NEW – B.C.G.S. CEMETERY COMMITTEE WEB PAGE. Information on committee projects and links for B.C. cemetery research: [www.bcgs.ca/BCGS%20Cemetery%20Committee.htm](http://www.bcgs.ca/BCGS%20Cemetery%20Committee.htm)

35<sup>TH</sup> CARNIVAL OF GENEALOGY - DNA AND GENEALOGY, on the Genetic Genealogist’s Blog, November 4, 2007. Browse this and other genealogy blogs by clicking ‘feed’ next to the blog name on the newsfeed page: [www.bcgs.ca/Newsfeed.htm](http://www.bcgs.ca/Newsfeed.htm)

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## NEW WEBSITES, DATABASES AND RESEARCH AIDS ON-LINE

NEW –AncestorsSearch, Canadian Genealogy Centre, Library and Archives Canada (LAC), for the most used Genealogy Centre databases. Be sure to use the links to other LAC searches too –Amicus for books and articles, ArchiviaNet for archival collections and CAIN (Canadian Archival Information Network) for 800 Canadian archival institutions:

<http://search-recherche.collectionscanada.ca/ancestors/search.jsp?Language=eng>

THAT'S MY FAMILY Free search facility sponsored by Bibliothèque et Archives nationales du Québec, Library and Archives Canada and the Council of Provincial and Territorial Archivists of Canada. So far this searches a number of indexes for Canada and Quebec and Nova Scotia, but for the rest of Canada only the B.C. Vital Statistics indexes, the Saskatchewan Homestead Index, Toronto office immigration records for Ontario and baptismal indexes for P.E.I.: [www.thatsmyfamily.info](http://www.thatsmyfamily.info)

RECENT FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOI) RELEASES, The National Archives of the U. K. include some nationality and naturalization records, and some Metropolitan Police Records. Free. Anyone can request information be released under the Act. For full details of the FOI process and examples of items released, see:

[www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/releases/2007/default.htm](http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/releases/2007/default.htm)

THE GENEALOGIST, a U.K. subscription site, has been called the 'best BMD' website for its complete General Register Office BMD indexes, as well as English and Welsh census indexes and transcripts produced by family historians in a Census-Name Indexing Project, indexes, transcripts and some images for records from over 1,100 parishes, and some land record and directory indexes. Free articles. This site is from Genealogy Supplies (Jersey) Limited which also now offers a pay for view Official Non-Parochial BMDs Service covering unpublished birth, marriage and death registries from 1534 to 1865, currently including records of the General Register Office, 1836-1970; Royal Hospital, Greenwich records, 1694 onwards; Dr. Williams Library, 1742-1865; Dissenter's Registry (Presbyterian, Independent and Baptist Registry) 1742-1837; and the Wesleyan Methodist Metropolitan Registry, 1818-1838.

The Genealogist: [www.thegenealogist.co.uk](http://www.thegenealogist.co.uk)

The Official Non-Parochial BMDs Service: [www.bmdregisters.co.uk](http://www.bmdregisters.co.uk)

NEW –MASSACHUSETTS DATABASES on WorldVitalRecords.com, free till November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2007. All indexes are from Quinton Publications, some specially appropriate for the U.S. Thanksgiving, including ...*Names of the Passengers on the Good Ship Mayflower in December 1620; Plymouth - Memories of an Octogenarian; and The Pilgrims of Boston and Their Descendants*. World Vital Records promises to add another 10,000 databases over the next few months. Each is free to search for the first 10 days on-line. Check the home page to see all recently added databases or subscribe to the free e-newsletter to keep up to date. A Family History Center near you may have free access to World Vital Records: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

A recent World Vital Records survey found that customers wanted more databases for New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Illinois and Massachusetts in the U.S.A., then for Missouri, Kentucky, and Indiana, U.S. A. and for Canada for Ontario, Quebec, and British Columbia. Which places would you most like to see digitized records for?  
Website: [www.worldvitalrecords.com](http://www.worldvitalrecords.com)

NEW –UNITED STATES WORLD WAR I AND II RECORDS just added to Footnote.com, including a naval press clipping collection, 1942-60 and army and navy case files of Pacific area war crimes trials. For more information on these, check footnote's blog: <http://blog.footnote.com>  
Also new to Footnote.com –AMERICAN COLONIZATION SOCIETY records. The society's aim was to establish a colony in Africa (Liberia) for free people of color residing in the United States: [www.footnote.com](http://www.footnote.com) Both these collections are available by subscription or pay for view. Check with Family History Centers near you about possible free access to Footnote: [www.familysearch.org](http://www.familysearch.org)

COMING SOON TO [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com) –U.S. Passport Applications, 1787-1925; and an update of the newspaper collection with broader United States coverage and an improved search technology. By subscription or search at a subscribing institution (in B.C.'s Lower Mainland: Cloverdale Library or Vancouver Public Library. In Kelowna at the Kelowna & District Genealogical Society Library.) Among the new papers on-line at ancestry will be *Stars and Stripes*, from the Pacific Theater, 1945-1963. (*Stars and Stripes* and *Stars and Stripes Far East Pacific*, 1947-2004, is currently available at the subscription site [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com) )

NEW –FREE ON ANCESTRY.COM –“Search like the pros” tutorial with Suzanne Russo Adams, Professional Services Desk Manager at Ancestry.com. Well worthwhile the time, especially for anyone newer to this website. (Windows Media Audio or Real Player needed. Download links included.) Tutorial free on-line till 28 February, 2008 5 pm M.S.T at: <http://event.on24.com/eventRegistration/EventLobbyServlet?target=lobby.jsp&eventid=92635&sessionid=1&key=4A8385AED9AC90ED57E2362D8AD4CFC8&eventuserid=12196048>

ADD VOICE TO ANCESTRY.COM'S FREE FAMILY TREES. If you already have a family tree on Ancestry, or if you plan to add one in the future, check this out. You can use the telephone or record your voice or a video with your computer or webcam, you can send e-mails to relatives asking them to call Ancestry to record their voices, or even record a conference call with yourself and one other person. To hear some recent stories added, see: <http://media.ancestry.com/audio>  
Have you had success with Ancestry's family trees? Do let us know: [editor@bcgs.ca](mailto:editor@bcgs.ca)

NEWSPAPERARCHIVE.COM features a variety of free topical newspaper collections, including Immigration, the Holocaust, the Titanic and Pearl Harbour, and the Chocolate Wars. Free newspaper content on the site for 'Today in History' and in the free newsletter.

New pay content this month includes *The Morning Record*, 1897 from Michigan, the *Tucson Daily Citizen*, 1975-1977 and the *Stars and Stripes Mediterranean*, from Naples, Italy, 1944. Most of the content is from the U.S.A. but not all. Alberta and Manitoba papers are available, for instance. Website: [www.newspaperarchive.com](http://www.newspaperarchive.com)

QUESNEL GENEALOGY SOCIETY, new website with Quesnel history, family names being researched, lookups and publications available: [www.rootsweb.com/~bcqgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~bcqgs)

PETER FIDLER.COM, researching descendants and family of Canadian explorer and surveyor. A new, free website developed by Gary Still. Includes a list of FIDLER related surnames and a forum for discussion: [www.peterfidler.com](http://www.peterfidler.com)

THE HISTORY OF VANCOUVER, B.C., from Chuck Davis, well known Vancouver historian. Submit your own stories. Information and fun features, all free, including Vancouver "Oddities" and a monthly quiz. Did you know that the city's first Vancouver City Police badges were made with American silver dollars?: [www.vancouverhistory.ca](http://www.vancouverhistory.ca)

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## INTERESTING & USEFUL WEBSITES

ARCHAIC MEDICAL TERMS. Website written by Paul Smith for genealogists and historians, including not only terms for diseases, but occupational conditions, abbreviations and symbols, poisons, a timetable of recorded epidemics for the U.K. and U.S.A. and some interesting links:

[www.paul\\_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm](http://www.paul_smith.doctors.org.uk/ArchaicMedicalTerms.htm)

NEWSPAPER ABSTRACTS. This free website now has almost 47,000 pages of abstracts and extracts from historical newspapers from Canada, the U.K. and Ireland, the United States, Australia and Norway. Over 1,000 are added each month. It's easy to search and to contribute: [www.newspaperabstracts.com](http://www.newspaperabstracts.com)

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR GENEALOGICAL STUDIES has new courses planned for 2008, including: Abstracting, Transcribing and Citing Sources; American: Maps & Geography; Canadian: Maps & Geography; Research: New Zealand Ancestors; Research: Ontario Ancestors; Virtual Family Reunion; Writing your Family History; and more German, Irish and Scottish topics. Courses coming up soon include Genealogy and Copyright Guidelines, French - Understanding the Language and Genetics and Genealogy. For more information, see the website at: [www.genealogicalstudies.com](http://www.genealogicalstudies.com) or call 1 800 580 0165 (or 416 861 0165 Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

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## FEATURED AREA LINKS: BRITISH HOME CHILDREN

From the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century until the 1940's, thousands of British children were sent to other countries, including Canada, Australia and South Africa, by various organizations. Most trained and worked as domestics or farm labourers. Most never saw their families again. Today many Home Children descendants are eager to trace their kin.

The British Home Children Society has been dissolved, effective November 1, 2007, but the BHC Registry will be maintained by Perry Snow.

Perry Snow's British Home Children Registry website:

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~britishhomechildren>

There is a very active RootsWeb mailing list for Home Child research, a message board, and a new website – British Home Children Descendants.

British Home Children RootsWeb Mailing List:

<http://lists.rootsweb.com/index/intl/CAN/BRITISHHOMECHILDREN.html>

British Home Children RootsWeb Message Board:

<http://boards.rootsweb.com/topics.orphans.brithomechild/mb.ashx>

British Home Children Descendants website: <http://bhc.kindredbond.com>

Also see

HOME CHILDREN PROJECT, British Isles Family History Society of Greater Ottawa. Information on the Middlemore homes and emigration programmes with a database of child immigrant names and voyages to Canada: [www.bifhsgo.ca/home\\_children.htm](http://www.bifhsgo.ca/home_children.htm)

HOME CHILDREN IN ONTARIO, The Olive Tree Genealogy website:

[www.olivetreegenealogy.com/can/ont/homekids.shtml](http://www.olivetreegenealogy.com/can/ont/homekids.shtml)

BARNARDO'S HOMES features photographs of children's homes in the U.K., Australia and Canada, from Viv Sadler: <http://hometown.aol.com/vvsadler/index.html>

DR. BARNARDO'S – A VILLAGE HOME, BARKINGSIDE, 1876-1986:

[www.goldonian.org/barkingside](http://www.goldonian.org/barkingside)

“GOOD BRITISH STOCK”: CHILD AND YOUTH MIGRATION TO AUSTRALIA, a research guide, The National Archives of Australia:

[www.naa.gov.au/naaresources/Publications/research\\_guides/guides/childmig/introduction.htm](http://www.naa.gov.au/naaresources/Publications/research_guides/guides/childmig/introduction.htm)

FEATURED AREA LINKS: We will feature research links for a different county or area of research in most future issues of *The Offspring*. Send in your web link suggestions or your requests.

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## GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY IN THE NEWS

HOW POPULAR IS YOUR SURNAME IN SOUTHWESTERN BRITISH COLUMBIA? The Vancouver Sun has a new surname website (based on telephone listings) that's been very popular...almost 88,000 hits since its opening last weekend. Search a town or city, or the entire region or click on the map. I see there are no CUTMOREs at all, but there are 12 CHRISTMASes –half live in Victoria. The surname SCOTT ranks 27<sup>th</sup> in the region, ROGERS is 123rd. Articles on the website discuss common surnames, First Nations surnames and Chinese surnames. Search your own surnames at: [www.canada.com/vancouversun/features/surnames/index.html](http://www.canada.com/vancouversun/features/surnames/index.html)

DID YOU HAVE FAMILY MEMBERS ACTIVE IN B.C. WOMEN'S INSTITUTES? November 15, 2007 is the deadline to order copies of the B.C.W.I. History Book and the companion book "100 Women of B.C.W.I." Celebration of the centennial of the Women's Institute begins in June 2008. Both books sell for \$70.00 plus \$10.00 for shipping and packaging. Send your name and address with a cheque or money order to B.C. Women's Institute, #203B, 750 Cottonwood Ave., Kamloops, B.C. V2B 3X2. B.C. Women's Institute website: <http://mypage.direct.ca/b/bcwi/home>

"CYNDI'S LIST", a Roots TV interview by Dick Eastman with Cyndi Howells about her categorized list of over 268,000 genealogy links, November, 2007 (from the Caribbean): [http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans\\_online\\_genealogy/2007/11/cyndi-on-rootst.html](http://blog.eogn.com/eastmans_online_genealogy/2007/11/cyndi-on-rootst.html)

"Gravestone words tells a tale" by Leslie Scrivener, Toronto Star, Nov 04, 2007, an article about cemetery projects of the Toronto Branch of the Ontario Genealogical Society: [www.thestar.com/article/273309](http://www.thestar.com/article/273309)

### UNITED CHURCH ARCHIVES SAVED, CANADA

In October of 2007, the United Church of Canada announced that the United Church Archives (Toronto) will be resituated at the church's General Council Office in Toronto and that a public reading room will be opened by May 5, 2008. This archives houses the National records of the United Church of Canada and its antecedent denominations (Methodist, Presbyterian, Congregational and Evangelical United Brethren), and also the records of the five central Ontario Conferences of the United Church –the Bay of Quinte, Toronto, Hamilton, London and Manitou.

Earlier this year, the United Church had announced the closure of the Archives, currently at Victoria University; no plans for its future had apparently been made. Many historical and genealogical groups joined in protesting this closure. Although the promise of the reopening of the Archives by May, 2008 is good news, many are still very concerned that this is only a temporary measure, and that preservation and future access to these church records will be affected.

For more about this issue, see the Save The Archives website: <http://unitedchurcharchives.vicu.utoronto.ca>

## CUTS TO ARCHIVES CANADA SERVICES

“Researchers protest Library and Archives service cuts” C.B.C. News, October 4, 2007

In September, 2007 with almost no notice, Library and Archives Canada (LAC) drastically cut public access hours at the Archives. A swell of protest has brought no changes to the new hours, but an LAC Services Advisory Board has been formed.

Genealogists will be represented. B.C.G.S. member, Gordon Watts, co-chair of the Canada Census Committee, has accepted a place on the Board. Genealogical and historical organizations continue to be concerned about the affects of these cuts. These will be the topic of the first Advisory Board meeting to be held this month. Minutes are to be posted publicly.

C.B.C. article: [www.cbc.ca/arts/books/story/2007/10/04/ot-library-071004.html?ref=rss](http://www.cbc.ca/arts/books/story/2007/10/04/ot-library-071004.html?ref=rss)

For more about both the United Church Archives and Library and Archives Canada issues and about the LAC Services Advisory Board, see the November 9<sup>th</sup>, 2007 issue of Gordon Watts Reports:

<http://globalgenealogy.com/globalgazette/gazgw/gazgw-0103.htm>

**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*.

Mention of any outside service, website or business, etc. in *The Offspring* does not imply any endorsement by the B.C.G.S.

To subscribe, unsubscribe or to change your e-mail address, please contact the B.C.G.S. Editor.

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