

THE OFFSPRING

BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

E-NEWSLETTER

February, 2007 Volume 2 #1

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

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B.C.G.S. NEWS

THE B.C.G. S & THE VANCOUVER ISLAND HISTORY WEBSITE

The VI History website, "a teaching, learning and research tool" offers easy access to entries from historical records---maps, censuses, directories, tax records---all relating to Vancouver Island in British Columbia. The British Columbia Genealogical Society is very pleased that the VI History website now includes data from our members' 1901 B. C. census index. Special thanks to Iline Gronlund, B.C.G.S. 1901 Census Index Co-ordinator & to Peter Claydon, 1901 Census Database Designer/Manager for their help in getting this data on-line at vihistory.ca

<http://www.vihistory.ca>

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B.C.G.S. EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

14th February, Wednesday, GENERAL MEETING. Sessions for the Beginners, Scandinavian & English Groups. Beginners topic: Vital Statistics. English topic: Brickwalls---bring your own examples. 7:30 pm, Edmonds Community Centre, 7282 Kingsway (Kingsway at Edmonds), Burnaby.

16th February, Friday, 9:30-9 pm & 17th February, Saturday, 9:30-4 pm. RICHMOND HERITAGE WEEK at Richmond Centre Mall, watch for the B.C.G.S. table & exhibits. Volunteers needed! Please call Diane Rogers at 604 294 5369. The mall is at 6551 No.3 Road between Granville Avenue & Westminster Highway in Richmond.

3rd March, Saturday, B.C.G.S. SEMINAR WITH DAVE OBEY AND BRENDA SMITH, 9:00-4 pm, Kennedy Seniors' Recreation Centre, 2nd Floor, 11760-88th Ave., Delta. \$25 for B.C.G.S. & affiliate members/\$35 non-members. Catered lunch included. Please register by emailing Eunice at eunice@dccnet.com

Topics: Dave Obee---“The Error of Our Ways”---wrong turns & dead ends in genealogy & “Destination: Canada” ---ship passenger lists, border crossing records, naturalization & citizenship documents. Special attention to post-1935 records.

Brenda Smith---“A La Carte: Using Maps in Family History” ---locate, track & record paths of migration & “Cite That! Citation Made Easy for the Family Historian”---learn why & how to document your family history.

See the B.C.G.S. Newspaper, Feb 1st, 2007 for the seminar flyer (Word & .pdf): <http://www.bcgs.ca/newspage.htm>

14th March, Wednesday, B.C.G.S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 7:30 pm, Edmonds Community Centre, 7282 Kingsway (Kingsway at Edmonds), Burnaby.

18th March, Sunday, VANCOUVER CELTICFEST, ST PATRICK'S PARADE
Join the B.C.G.S. contingent as we march down Granville St. Everyone is always happy; the weather has always been great; the B.C.G.S. group always has fun! For more info, call Barbara Stanyer at 604 253 0210.

For more about CelticFest, see: <http://www.celticfestvancouver.com>

28th April, Saturday, ROOTS AROUND THE WORLD, Abbotsford Genealogical Society's 2007 seminar at the Rick Hansen Secondary School, 31150 Blueridge Dr., Abbotsford. The B.C.G.S. will sponsor a DNA testing session on Friday, 27th April. Watch for details soon. The B.C.G.S. Boutique & B.C.G.S. displays will be at the Saturday seminar.

For seminar registration information: http://www.abbygs.ca/2007_seminar.htm

26 May, Saturday, EUROPEAN FESTIVAL, 24 countries represented, Scandinavian Centre, 6540 Thomas St., Burnaby. Volunteer for the B.C.G.S. table. Contact Lillian Svendsen at ljsvendsen@shaw.ca or Diane Rogers 604 294 5369

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MORE EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

B.C.G.S. SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Check the B.C.G.S. web calendar: <http://www.bcgs.ca/Calendar/current.htm>

QUEBEC---next meeting, Saturday, March 10th at the B.C.G.S. Resource Centre, 10 am-noon. Meeting dates have changed. Please contact Facilitator Linda Maitland for info.

UKRAINIAN---Saturday, March 17th at the B.C.G.S. Resource Centre. 10 am-noon.

SCANDINAVIAN---Please contact Facilitator Lillian Svensen for the next dates.

All B.C.G.S. Special Interest Facilitators: <http://www.bcgs.ca/IntGrpFac.htm>

Please note that the e-mail for First Nations Facilitator, Alice Marwood, has changed.

DISCUSSION GROUP, DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER, February 13, 2007 & March 13th, 2007. Meet in the Vancouver Public Library Atrium, 1 pm, near the Blendz coffee shop, for an informal genealogy discussion. Free. V.P.L. Atrium, 350 West Georgia St., Vancouver. Contact Diane Rogers: diane_rogers@shaw.ca or 604 724 8744.

CLOVERDALE LIBRARY PROGRAMMES

Internet Genealogy - Dig up Your Irish Roots for St. Patrick's Day, Saturday, March 17, 2007, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm with Jacqui Haines. \$10.

Genealogy Lock-in Fundraiser, Sunday, April 29, 2007, 10:00 - 3:00 pm. Doors open this particular Sunday just for Genealogy. Obtain one-on-one assistance, take an orientation tour or attend a seminar. Free reader time. Door prizes; refreshments. Bring lunch. \$35. Money raised from this fundraiser will go towards new materials for Surrey Public Library's Genealogy collection.

Cloverdale Library, 5642-176A Street, Surrey.

Please pre-register for Cloverdale Library programmes; call 604-576-1384 (local 303 or 304). Payment is required upon registration.

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B.C.G.S. LIBRARY NEWS

New England Historic Genealogical Society database access now at the B.C.G.S. Library with a wide variety of New England resources, for instance, church & vital records, newspapers, land records, etc. as well as some resources from outside New England,

including *An Hiberian Atlas*, Ireland 1798. The B.C.G.S. has an institutional membership; access is available only at the Library.

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NEW WEBSITES & DATABASES ON-LINE

Many of the newest websites & databases are subscription or pay for view, but some, like AncestryBank & AncestorsOnBoard (both below), have excellent free searches & indexes. With patience & luck, you may then find the details elsewhere on-line for free, or in a microfilm or database that's available to you in a library or other resource centre.

ANCESTRY.COM ADDING DROUIN COLLECTION & OTHER INDEXES

A collection of records from the Drouin Institute in Canada, in co-operation with the University of Montreal, will soon be added to ancestry.com---the names of 37 million people collected on church records in Quebec, Ontario, & other U.S. French regions from the late 1600s to the 1940s.

Ancestry now has the 1851/1861 Scottish census & has launched new websites---ancestry.de for Germany, & Ancestry.com.au for Australia.

New also is a Nevada Divorce Index, 1968-2005 & a Nevada Marriage Index, Nevada Marriage Index, 1956-2005. Perhaps for Valentine's Day (or April 1st), ancestry.com has now a fun site based on the two Nevada indexes---VegasWeddingOdds.com with celebrity weddings & more.

Ancestry.com: www.ancestry.com

Drouin Genealogical Institute: <http://drouininstitute.com>

VegasWeddingOdds.com: <http://landing.ancestry.com/vegas>

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE U.K. NEW DATABASES ON-LINE

17,000 Ancient Petitions about grievances or for favour from the times of Henry II to James I.

1,000 Aliens Registration cards 1876-1991

British Prisoner of War interviews & reports, World War I.

<http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/documentsonline/whats-new.asp>

GLOBAL GENEALOGY

Rick Roberts of Global Genealogy has a section of Canadian searchable, on-line genealogical & historical information that's worth checking out. Most are free, like the Yukon Genealogy site which has a very simple search but many interesting databases.

Try a search by place (e.g. 'vancouver' or 'california') or by first name, if it's uncommon. People went to the Yukon from everywhere!

GlobalGenealogy.com: <http://globalgenealogy.com/countries/canada/searchable-data.htm>
Yukon Genealogy: <http://www.yukongenealogy.com>

ANCESTORS ON BOARD---CONTEST DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2007

This website has added more years to the U.K. passenger database; it has indexes from 1890-1909. The National Archives of the U.K. has a contest on till March 1, 2007 & the prizes are vouchers for 'Ancestors on Board'. Just subscribe to the TNA newsletter for details.

TNA e-newsletter:

http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/enewsletter/?source=ddmenu_news3
Ancestors On Board: <http://www.ancestorsonboard.com>

SCOTLANDSPEOPLE, 500 GIGABYTES OF IMAGES ON-LINE

Nine million Scottish record indexes have been updated & images of some records added. Births, baptisms, banns & marriages, (1553-1854) as well as census records (1841-1901) & statutory birth, marriage & death records (1855-various). There is a free wills & testaments index (1513-1901), but most of the site is pay for view. George Caldwell, the B.C.G.S. Scottish group facilitator, hosted a hands-on session last month about ScotlandsPeople. Perhaps he can be persuaded to do this again?

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk>

The Scotland BDM Exchange is a free place to start a Scottish search & entering data to the site from certificates or baptismal register copies or transcriptions you already have is very easy.

<http://www.sctbdm.com>

FOOTNOTE, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES, U.S.A.

The innovative new website, Footnote, is already offering a wide array of historical documents from the U.S.A., many of which will be of interest to genealogists, like the Civil War pension index. Among the latest added are Naturalization Petitions, District of Maryland, 1906-1930, Middle District of Pennsylvania, 1906-1930, Eastern District of Louisiana, New Orleans Division, 1838-1861. Searching is free; a few collections are free. Footnote offers monthly or yearly paid memberships or pay to view by piece. Free members' web pages; add comments, images, etc. See farmanio's page on 'Five Generations of Bells' for an example of this.

Footnote.com: <http://www.footnote.com>

Five Generations of Bells: <http://www.footnote.com/topicpage.php?tp=37&title=Five-Generations-of-Bells>

GENEALOGY BANK FREE TRIAL OFFER TILL 13 FEBRUARY, 2007 ONLY

Great variety of historical books, documents & newspapers from the U.S.A. with modern obituaries & the most detailed index on-line for the Social Security Death Index. Good, basic free search tools & free index with preview for most records. Monthly & yearly paid memberships. For the free offer, please be patient; the site will be busy.

Log in using E-mail: promotion@genealogybank.com

Password: GenBank4U

Thanks to Sharon Sergeant of AncestralManor.com for the trial offer information. Her website has some good case studies using Genealogy Bank's resources (.pdf & .mp3 files)

Genealogy Bank: <http://www.genealogybank.com>

Ancestral Manor: <http://ancestralmanor.com/dnn/?tabid=126>

LOST COUSINS ADDS 1880 U.S.A. CENSUS

Lost Cousins works by automatically matching members' entries in the 1881 censuses for Canada, England & Wales, Scotland & now the 1880 U.S. census. Basic membership is free. This site is a favourite of both your B.C.G.S. Webmaster & Editor.

<http://www.lostcousins.com>

ROOTSWEB---MAILING LISTS & MORE

Rootsweb.com offers free e-mailing lists on almost any subject you can imagine. If there isn't one for your area of genealogical interest, you can start one! One of the newest lists is RECORD-KEEPING-METHODOLOGY.

To watch for new e-lists, databases & websites on RootsWeb, keep an eye on 'What's New': <http://whatsnew.rootsweb.com>

NEED A REMINDER ABOUT THAT INDEXING, SCANNING OR FILING YOU PROMISED YOU'D DO?

Try out HassleMe's free service. Ask for a specific reminder every so many days to help you keep those New Year's genealogy resolutions.

<http://www.hassleme.co.uk>

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GENEALOGY & FAMILY HISTORY IN THE NEWS

THE CITY OF NORTH VANCOUVER, B.C. IS 100 THIS YEAR!

If you have old photographs of the area, please think about donating originals or copies to the city. You can e-mail: LSym@cnv.org or call the City of North Vancouver Museum & Archives at 604 990 3700.

City of North Vancouver 100 Years of History website:
<http://www.cnv.org/server.aspx?c=1&i=332>

WALTER DRAYCOTT, whose generous legacy allowed the B.C.G.S. to purchase the society's library building, bought land in Lynn Valley, North Vancouver in 1912. In 1919, he published his first book about the area, *Lynn Valley. From the Wilds of Nature to Civilization*.

For more about Walter Draycott, see Jane Mattisson's website, 'Walter MacKay Draycott: 1883-1985': <http://dotnet.khn.bth.se/draycott/Main.aspx>

'BEST FAMILY WEBSITE' CONTEST---DEADLINE FEBRUARY 13, 2007

Family Tree Magazine (U.S.) has 5 finalists for the magazine's 2007 'Best Family Website' Contest. Have a look at all five & vote for your choice. Voting Deadline is 13 February, 2007.

<http://www.familytreemagazine.com/poll.asp>

ICELANDIC GENEALOGY

"The Iceland Family Tree", in 'Iceland Review Online', 9 February 2007. Interesting comment on the Icelandic database, 'Íslendingabók' or 'The Book of Icelanders', on-line at the www.islendingabok.is website. Access to that database is free to anyone listed in it.

http://www.icelandreview.com/icelandreview/daily_life/?cat_id=16539&ew_0_a_id=262375

'FAMILY ROOTS', A NEW RADIO SHOW ON-LINE

Hosted by Kory Meyerlink on Voice America, this brand new show will focus on the how-to's of genealogy & family history. The first show, 'Immigration Sources' explores

the Ellis Island website & Stephen Morse's handy 'One Step' approach to genealogy research in this kind of immigration database. To listen live, log on to the VoiceAmerica™ Channel each Thursday at 1pm Pacific. You can listen to archived shows or download an MP3 file, too.

<http://www.familyrootsradio.com>

MORE ON U.S.A.'S THOMAS JEFFERSON 'S DNA

"DNA Clue To Presidential Puzzle", by Paul Rincon, 'BBC News' on-line. On-going research into Jefferson's ancestry.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/6332545.stm>

GENEALOGICAL TOURISM & IRELAND

"Genealogy and the economic drain on Ireland: Unintended Consequences" by Emily Heinlen published on-line, 'First Monday', January 2007 edition, makes some interesting points (although I think a wider look at tourism patterns generally & a direct comparison with the case of Scotland would be most useful. M. Diane Rogers)

http://www.firstmonday.org/issues/issue12_1/heinlen/index.html

ALL THE WORLD'S BOOKS ON-LINE?

Google intends to put 'all' the world's books on the World Wide Web, by hand, despite some legal difficulties. Many, many more books have been added, along with some new 'bells & whistles', since Google Book Search went on-line. Most full view books are older, written in English---many are genealogy or history related---from *A Geographical Dictionary of England and Wales* (William Cobbett, 1832) to *Diary of the Marches of the Royal Army During the Great Civil War*, kept by Richard Symons to *Letters on the Condition of the People of Ireland: Reprinted from the Times* (Thomas Campbell Foster, 1846). Not all books are fully available on-line, but you can search for 'full view books' only, if you like. Word searches included, or try the 'Find in a Library' link which takes you to entries in World Cat.

<http://books.google.ca>

For an update on the Google Books project, see:

"Google's Moon Shoot" by Jeffery Toobin, 'The New Yorker' on-line & in print, 5 February 2007: http://www.newyorker.com/fact/content/articles/070205fa_fact_toobin

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FAVOURITE WEBSITES

THE ORIGINAL RECORD includes an intriguing variety of U.K. legal & official indexes & published sources, for example, for bankruptcy & apprenticeship, 'Liegemen and Traitors, Pirates & Spies' from Elizabethan records & marriages & deaths as reported in newspapers & journals like the *Gentleman's Magazine*. All apparently indexed by hand. Free surname search; wildcards can be used & variants are relatively easy to search. There is a free 'wish list' e-mail service too. No membership involved; you pay to see chosen records; prices vary. Sample scans of each type of record are shown. The company says this website gives "a deep search into 1,000 years of unusual records". Suggested by M. Diane Rogers, Editor. I have found many interesting entries, but alas, no pirates of my own...yet.

www.theoriginalrecord.com

CURIOS FOX, created in 2002, is one of B.C.G.S. Webmaster, Bob Daniel's favourites. The aim of Curious Fox is to provide a resource for finding & identifying the myriad of villages in the UK & now Ireland & to allow genealogists, family history & local history researchers to make contact & share knowledge at a village level. There are historical & modern maps, a gazetteer for the U.K., a village & a surname search, etc. You can be either a free or paid member. Paid memberships cover site costs, so there's no advertising. Curious Fox is an 'anti-spam' site; there's a messaging system for contacts.

www.curiousfox.com

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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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