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APRIL MEETING: WEDNESDAY 10 @7PM

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COVER DETAILS ON PAGE 3

APRIL 2024 VOL 9 • ISN 03



IN THIS

APRIL MEETING

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

CALENDAR

ZOOM CHATS

FEATURES

Kindertech

DNA Research survey

Meg McLaughlin

Carole Reed

Newsletter Exchange

DAR

MONTHLY CHECK-INS

<u>e-Journal</u> <u>United Empire Loyalists</u> <u>Newsletter Deadlines</u> <u>Fundraising</u>

Surrey Library

ALL UNDERLINED ITEMS ARE CLICKABLE AS LINKS

FROM OUR NEWEST PRESIDENT

YVETTE HOWARD #5770, PRESIDENT@BCGS.CA

Hello and Happy April!

It is exciting to be writing my first post for the Newsletter as the incoming president of the BC Genealogical Society. The BCGS is made up of an amazing group of people who are involved in many different ways within our society. It's a great place to get connected with other family history enthusiasts. Connection with others who enjoy studying genealogy is the key reason I joined BCGS in 2020. I had been happily working away on my family history, but found I wanted to talk to other genealogists about the challenges (and successes!) that came my way. The BCGS with monthly meetings, a variety of special interest groups and a resource library felt like the perfect fit for me.

Of course, that year had other plans for my desire to connect in person with others, but the change from in person to virtual meetings ended up having a positive outcome, and has continued to, as our members who live outside of the Lower Mainland can attend monthly **Members' Meetings** and our popular **Coffee Chats**.

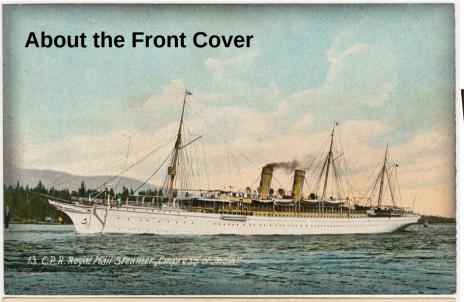
I found that I still had the desire to meet others within the BCGS, and so I decided to volunteer with the Society, working on various projects and serving on the Board. I have enjoyed the work I have been involved in and am proud to help grow our society. And of course, I have met many wonderful people who understand my enthusiasm for genealogy and celebrate with me when I tell them how thrilled I am to find an 1818 non-conformist baptism record from Tolpiddle, Dorset.

Whatever capacity you are involved within the BCGS—as a regular participant of a virtual Coffee Chat, a faithful reader of the Newsletter, an occasional Members' Meeting attendee or an active volunteer at the Surrey Library and Research Centre—your membership at the BCGS is appreciated. **You are part of a community of people who value each other** and those who have come before us. We recognize that they too were part of a community.





Would you like to facilitate a Coffee Chat? Contact Eunice <u>coffeechat@bcgs.ca</u>



On April 28, 1891, Canadian Pacific's Royal Mail Ship *Empress of India* completed its maiden voyage. She had set a speed record for a Pacific crossing from Japan (11 days), and incidentally kicked off Vancouver's cruise industry. The Empress of India was purpose-built to serve a trans-Pacific route connecting Asia to Canada by sea. In 1889, the British government signed a 10-year contract with CP for subsidized mail service between Britain and Hong Kong. Mail moved from Britain by ship across the Atlantic, across Canada by rail, and to Asia by ship.

About the Cover Print: Silver gelatin print; 18 x 24 cm on board 20 x 25 cm. Photo by Major James Skitt Matthews, (1878-1970) of Bailey Bros, Photo. Old Photo Number: Bo N44–Photographer's number X761. City of Vancouver Archives: AM54-S4-: Bo P154. **About this Postcard print:** AM1052-: AM1052 P-138, on postcard; 9 x 14 cm



The Library will be closed on April 20th for ease with the Vaisakhi Parade.

April's KinderTech is cancelled as a result. Refer to the article on KinderTech

APRIL MEETING NOTES

The Joy of Discovery

GUEST SPEAKER-WALTER UDELI



PART 2: The Conclusion of the Joy of Discovery Talk Walter was raised in the interior of BC in a log house. His mother was a war bride from London. His paternal heritage was obscure, due in part to the destruction of his grandparents' house in 1937 in an Albertan prairie fire. In his mid 20s he started an occasional search for his heritage and was richly rewarded over the years, discovering a wealth of information, pictures and books. He will share some of those discoveries with those interested in attending.

Note: The first page of Veterans' bios in the Book of Remembrance includes **6 entries** from Walter's family!

WEDNESDAY APRIL 10TH MEETING

Members will receive Zoom invitations to our monthly meetings, so watch your email inbox for the Zoom link, meeting number and password. If you don't receive the email by the day before the meeting, please contact <u>info@bcgs.ca</u> for assistance. A free Zoom account is needed to join these meetings.



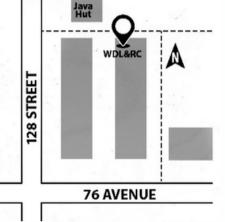
Welcome to the LIBRARY!

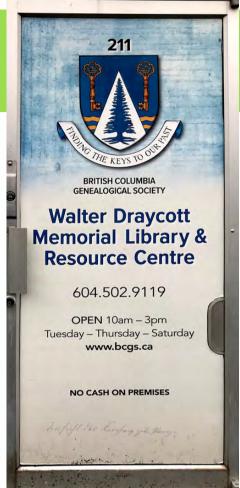
Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays— 10am to 3pm.

The library is closed all holiday weekends and if there is extreme weather. Please call to confirm hours **604.502.9119**.

\$5 per day for non-members

Unit 211, 12837 76 Ave, Surrey - No parking in fire lanes. You must park in a designated BCGS parking stall or on the street. If in doubt, check with the library host on duty.





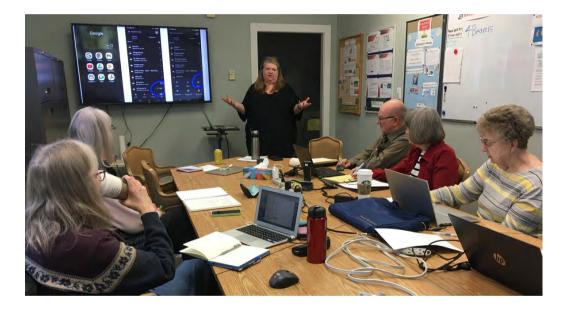


Kindertech:

to help you with your computer, tablet or phone

Kindertech, the brainchild of our former Librarian Ann Buchanan, is held once a month at the BCGS Library. As its name suggests, it's an opportunity for members to ask computer questions and get one-on-one assistance from either:

- an experienced Windows/Android user *Meg Riter*
- an experienced Mac/Apple user Margaret Sharon



We also do short how-to presentations on topics that attendees have suggested. In previous sessions we've discussed Apple screenshots/Windows Snipping Tool; Google Docs, Sheets, Scanner & Drive; GEDCOM; blog reader apps; etc.

Come along to the next session of Kindertech and bring your device(s)!

We normally meet on the third Saturday of every month at 10am;

however we won't be meeting in April as the Library is closed that day for the annual Vaisakhi celebrations in our neighbourhood. In May, our meeting would have been on the Victoria Long Weekend—please note this is changed to May 11 and back to the third Saturday in June. You're welcome to email <u>kindertech@bcgs.ca</u> with suggestions for future discussion topics.

See you in May!

THE AGING FAMILY GENEALOGISTS AND LONG-LOST RELATIVES STUDY

Why am I interested in this study?

A rising number of adults are searching for previously unknown genetic relatives using DNA testing/databases, online historical public records, and family stories. On a personal level, my motivation for this study originated with my own fascination to identify my maternal grandfather, who was previously unknown to my mother. After years of research and DNA test searches, I was able to solve my family mystery and it was a happy ending. I was also able to reunite my mother with some long-lost relatives prior to her passing. Since then, I have learned that many other people have had similar experiences and many interesting stories to share. Thus, as a sociology/gerontology professor, I believe that the study insights will be very helpful to others, such as hobby/leisure groups or anyone wanting to learn more about this topic.

To learn more or to take the survey go to: <u>https://www.sfu.ca/gerontology/research/agegen2.html</u>



A couple of volunteers have retired—if you think this may be a fit for you, contact <u>library@bcgs.ca</u>. Shifts are either morning 10 am to 12:30 or afternoon 12:30 to 3 pm. The following positions need to be filled: the **First** and **Third Saturday** of each month and the **Fourth Thursday** of each month.

MEMBER ARTICLE

APRIL 2024

Evidence from Family Gatherings

MEG MCLAUGHLIN, #3847 GENEALOGY BLOGGER

The older I get, the faster the time seems to go. Now 2007 seems like it was so long ago and, I suppose, part of the reason it feels that way is because of all of the things we've been through in the meantime. At the time though, it was just barely past the beginning of a new century. We'd lived through Y2K and the world hadn't come to an end. That was a reason to feel happy, I suppose. Although we might not have been as optimistic if we'd been able to see what the future had in store.

2007 was also marked a momentous event in my family's history. It was the year my Dad turned 90 and we'd planned a party. Although his birthday was the cause, in truth it was an excuse to gather people for a mini family reunion. I did feel a bit of a qualm though. It was in January in Ottawa.

As my contribution to the event I'd brought together my research on my father's side of the family and put it in a book titled *A 90th Birthday Book and Family History*. Some of the information had taken years to gather but records are one thing, interpretation another. Would it pass muster with someone like my Dad who had lived through it? At least the pictures couldn't be questioned.

While in Ottawa, I stayed with my Aunt Jean who also dabbled in family history. My cousin Barbara and her husband, Fred, had come from England for the party. Barbara had also helped A 90th BIRTHDAY BOOK AND FAMILY HISTORY

The 90th Birthday Book and Family History

me with learning about family dynamics within the British part of the Booth/Cavanagh family on my flying visits to England. So there was a household of family history fanatics under my aunt's roof. Well, except for Fred. I'm not sure what he got up to. I can remember the female members of our group spending hours going through really old family photos where none of us recognized the subjects. A lot of time was spent going back and forth between my aunt's house and the drug store copying those photos so we'd all be able to take them home and puzzle over them later.

On the day of the party, the contingent from my aunt's house travelled there together and I remember the gist of one of Aunt Jean's remarks on the way. She warned us not to expect her to go along with any such celebration on her 90th! Being the focus of attention for a large milestone birthday like that was not her idea of fun. But then my Dad was a good sport, or maybe it tickled him to have such a public acknowledgement of the early January birthday he'd been reminding us of for years!

My memory banks don't retain much of the celebration itself. I remember that cousin Barbara presented my father with a framed collage of family photos. I know both my brothers attended along with a lot of other people and there was cake. But other details tend to blur with similar family occasions held in Ottawa. Unfortunately, those were mainly funerals and memorials which, though similar, were sadder occasions. Around that time, Ottawa was a hub for my family as my parents had joined my uncle and aunt there after leaving the Montreal suburbs in the '70s. After the celebrating was over and my trip back east was done, my dad got back to me about various parts of the birthday book that were not quite right. I knew my audience. There had been a reason to wonder if it would pass muster. But it was good feedback to get from someone who had lived through the eras summarized in the pages.

As for the copies of the photos we'd spent hours at my aunt's house poring over, they are still waiting for me to analyze them and identify the subjects. The preliminaries at my aunt's had been fun though, a chance for swapping theories and stories. I'm on my own in BC now with even more photos to contend with because I was the one who ended up with the framed collage of family photos after my father's estate was settled. But it's good to remember that day and to be able to look at the tangible evidence left behind.

Framed Collage of Family Photos



Meg writes about history and genealogy in *A Genealogist's Path to History* at <u>http://genihistorypath.blogspot.ca/</u>. Read more about her findings in her blog.



Both journals are available at the BCGS Library and Research Centre as well as in the <u>Member Resources section of our BCGS website</u>

The Ormskirk and District Family Historian, The Magazine of the <u>Ormskirk and District Family</u> <u>History Society</u> (Covering the Sixteen Ancient Parishes and Townships of Wester Lancashire – Aughton, Bickerstaffe, Burscough, Downholland, Halsall, Hesketh-with-Becconsall, Lathom, Lydiate, Maghull, Melling, Ormskirk, Rufford, Scarisbrick, Simonswood, Skelmersdale and Tarleton.) **Issue 93 – March 2024**

The Original Ormskirk Gingerbread? - an

enjoyable read of how, after finding a newspaper clipping posted to a Facebook group that mentioned her father's family name of **ORRITT**, the writer was sent "into a flurry of research involving gingerbread, Ormskirk and the Orritt family tree."

Memories of my Grandfather – a writer recalls memories of his grandfather, William Langton **Rockliffe**, who was part of the reconnaissance corps in WW2 and was the first casualty of the Italian campaign having been injured by shrapnel embedded in his spine.

1920's newspaper report on the Aughton May

Queen – a delightful description of the Aughton May Festival, when children dressed as Fairyland and Story Book characters, all to pay their respects at the Court of Queen Ada. The report lists a great deal of locals who were involved or came to witness the festivities.

The Banyan Tree, The Journal of the <u>East</u> <u>Yorkshire Family History Society</u>

No 173 – February 2023

Highlights of articles included in this issue:

- 1. **Migration from Brixham to Hull**, to Grimsby and Australia – The Story of One 19th century Fishing Family
- 2. All in a (Royal) Day's Work
- 3. The Dixon Family: Boatmen to Butchers
- 4. What Happened to **Hannah Barnes** (late Layton nee Banks)?
- 5. A Generation of the **Sissons of Brandesburton**
- 6. **Trevillian:** A Name with more Questions than Answers
- 7. Beverley Rangers Log Book (1929 1938)

A LESSON TO P



While researching my third great-grandfather, I made a surprising discovery about his firstborn son, Joseph Thomas Finigan. His story prompted me to look up England's Witchcraft Act of 1735 and its evolution to today's legal treatment of fortune-tellers.

Nothing in the census records or his father's diary would indicate that Thomas (as he was called), was anything but a law-abiding citizen. One might expect as much of a missionary's son, after all. In fact, he dutifully assisted his father's ministry, although on a strictly voluntary basis. Thomas was neither a parson nor a parish clerk. Instead, over a period of some twenty years he had supported his family on the wages of a shoemaker. Sometime before 1861, however, he appeared to have made an abrupt change in career, and established himself in London as an undertaker. Some might have considered the mortician's craft a morbid one, but perhaps there was an appeal in the sacred trust of assisting families in their time of grief. Or, perhaps the appeal was in the potential profit to be made during a time of rampant disease and death. Either way, his new occupation was a curiosity, but not a surprise.

Thomas became a widower in 1862 and re-married the following year. Beyond this period, however, he and his new wife seemed to have disappeared. I couldn't find their names in the 1871 census, nor could I find them among the death or emigration records. Thinking that perhaps he had indeed died and that there might be an obituary or information in the papers, I scoured that treasure trove of scandalous articles – *the British Newspaper Archives*. And there he was! His whereabouts were revealed under such headlines as **"A Lesson to** *Fortune-Tellers*" and **"Amusing Fortune-Telling** *Case*". It turns out that between building coffins and transporting corpses, he and his wife ran a rather lucrative side hustle in clairvoyancy.

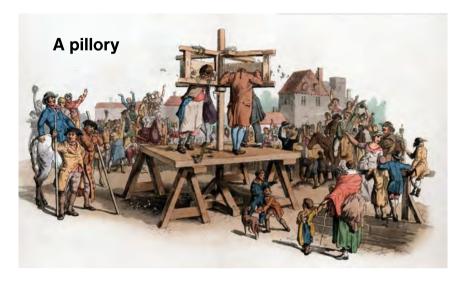
BY CAROLE REED, #5640

The history of crystal gazing, palmistry, and seances during the day reveals that the Edwardians and Victorians were rather fascinated with goings-on beyond the grave. While a popular form of entertainment for many, the law saw it differently – which brings me to my review of the Witchcraft Act of 1735.

During this period in the 1700s, the act of fortunetelling was considered to be satanic and was punishable by death. Thankfully, King George II abolished this penalty in favour of a delightful alternative - the pillory (see next page). This revision seemed to reposition the perpetrator as more of a reviled nuisance than an evil spirit, and foreshadowed a change in the law. During King George IV's reign, the 1735 Act was replaced with the 1824 Vagrancy Act. It was a broad law which largely targeted the homeless, but which read in part "...every person pretending or professing to tell fortunes, or using any subtle craft, means, or device, by palmistry or otherwise, to deceive and impose on any of his Majesty's subjects... shall be deemed a rogue and vagabond." Furthermore, such rogues could look forward to three months of hard labour in prison - which leads us to February of 1871.

By then, Thomas and his wife, using the alias 'Burdett', were distributing flyers around their neighbourhood in central London to advertise their expertise in foreseeing the future. The police were tipped off and, standing in the shadows, they watched dozens of women come and go from the 'Burdett' residence over just a few days. Their clients were routinely voung female domestic servants who would most certainly have been deemed vulnerable victims. Universal education was not mandatory until later in the decade, and it can be assumed that some education might have tamed their beliefs in fate. The 'Burdetts' were arrested and some of the comical exchanges at trial were published in several of Britain's newspapers.

The defence claimed that it was all a lark, having begun as sleight of hand trickery to amuse family at a Christmas gathering. The ruse, they said, gained momentum when friends circulated the flyers as a gag. They said they couldn't help but acquiesce to the pressures of so many requests for readings. They were plagued with these requests because, according to the defence, they assumed the previous tenant had also been engaged in soothsaying! Alas, the judge didn't buy any of this, and they were sentenced to three months of hard labour in the **"House of Correction"**, which was their residence at the time of the 1871 census (and explained their omission therein).



As common as mediums and the like are today, I came to wonder how our current laws treat them. In England, section 4 of the 1824 Act was repealed in 1951 with the English Fraudulent Mediums Act. In Canada, section 365 of the Criminal Code does not proscribe fortune-telling per se, but condemns the fraud associated with it. In both countries, the law is rarely enforced because it is difficult to prosecute the seers when they themselves are actually true believers. More often though, they are protected by the fine print that describes fortune-telling as mere entertainment — a disclaimer my ancestor, at his peril, neglected to share.

Send articles and photos to <u>newsletter@bcgs.ca</u> May is the next Newsletter. Deadline: Tuesday April 23

BCGS Newsletter Team

newsletter@bcgs.ca, Sue Sullivan Editor/Designer with Margaret Sharon Pub Review Team: Sherry King, Jo-Ann Blomquist, Sally Funk. Publishing Team: Sheila Albrecht Judy Galpin

MAILING ADDRESS

PO Box 88054, Lansdowne Mall Richmond, BC V6X 3T6 Library Phone: 604-502-9119 Articles, photos, illustrations and images have been submitted by volunteer authors. The material in this newsletter may be reprinted unless otherwise noted. Please give appropriate credit to the original source. Feel free to pass on the newsletter to anyone who has an interest in genealogy and/or genetic genealogy.

2024 DEADLINE PROOFERS RELEASE MEETING							
Мау	A23	1	6	8			
June*	M15	5	15	12			
July	J25	3	8	10			



LYNNE FLETCHER, #5353—E-JOURNAL EDITOR

While browsing through the blogs to check the Spring weather reports, I ran across this note about a unique Spring tradition:

It's the time of year when people begin tying little red-andwhite threads to blooming trees as a way of celebrating spring. This is apparently a tradition that originated in Eastern Europe, where the strings and associated beads or charms are known as **Mărțișor** in Romania or **Martenitsa** in Bulgaria. Sometimes they feature little dolls, as I've seen in the past.

In my mind's eye, I can see a small tree covered with colourful fuzzy threads, looking almost like a fruit tree in April. This is a respectful and lovely way to welcome the new season, and the longer days that will lead to warmer weather. The weather on Vancouver Island has begun to feel 'Springish', sunny and brighter, but is still cool. My cherry and magnolia trees are in bloom, celebrating this new season. I do not decorate them, but do chat to them as I feed them pails of mushroom manure. It's a practical way to welcome Spring, perhaps a tradition related to producing food.

Do you have family stories about special Spring traditions, ones not necessarily connected to Easter celebrations?

The next Deadline is May 15th. Please send your story and pictures to: <u>Journal@bcgs.ca</u>

TOTALS for 2024: \$376.90 3,915 containers and 52 bags were diverted from the landfills so far this year.



TAKE YOUR DONATIONS TO THE RETURN-IT DEPOT CLOSEST TO YOU

This is the easiest method to contribute to the society. Thank you to all our members all over BC who are supporting the BCGS.

Please return your bottles, cans, etc. in clear plastic bags to your nearest Return-It Centre. Print a deposit label on their machine, using the **BCGS phone number 604-502-9119.**

Coffee Chats

Also known as Special Interest Groups [SIGs)

If you would like to be included in a chat, please visit the <u>BCCS website</u> or email the address below to register. Not sure? Check the BCCS Website Calendar-of-events.



CHINESE COFFEE CHAT **Wednesday, Apr 10, May 8, 10-11 am** With Linda Yip RSVP <u>hello@past-presence.com</u>



USA COFFEE CHAT Thursday, Apr 11, May 23, 7 to 9 pm With Judith Ueland RSVP <u>coffeechat@bcgs.ca</u>



EASTERN EUROPE (INCLUDING GERMANS FROM RUSSIA) COFFEE CHAT Thursday, May 2, 7 to 9 pm With Eunice Robinson RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



INTRO TO DNA COFFEE CHAT Tuesday, May 6, 7 to 9 pm With Christene Hoffert RSVP terrhartl@gmail.com



ADVANCED DNA COFFEE CHAT Tuesday, April 16, May 21, 7 to 9 pm With Terry Hartley, Jim & Kathleen Graham <u>RSVP terrhartl@gmail.com</u>



ONTARIO COFFEE CHAT Thursday, Apr 18, May 9, 7 to 9 pm With Janet White RSVP <u>coffeechat@bcgs.ca</u>



Wales COFFEE CHAT Thursday, April 25, 7 to 9 pm With Eunice Robinson RSVP <u>coffeechat@bcgs.ca</u>



INDIGENOUS COFFEE CHAT Tuesday, Apr 30, 10:30am to Noon With Aboriginal Genealogy Association RSVP <u>coffeechat@bcgs.ca</u>



CANADIAN PRAIRIES COFFEE CHAT **Thursday, May 16, 7 to 9 pm** With Judith Ueland RSVP <u>coffeechat@bcgs.ca</u>



Ireland COFFEE CHAT Thursday, May 30, 7 to 9 pm With Eunice Robinson RSVP <u>coffeechat@bcgs.ca</u>



FAMILY TREE MAKER COFFEE CHAT Monday, Feb 19/Mar 18, 3 to 4:30 pm With Sharon Syrette RSVP <u>coffeechat@bcgs.ca</u>

= In-Person Meeting

ν _j = Online 200m meeting = In-Person Meeting									
Sunday-Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday					
APRIL	Chinese Genealogy 10 Chat 10am	USA Chat 7pm	Historical Photo Detective 10am	13					
Monday April 15 Family Tree Maker Chat at 3pm Tuesday April 16 Advanced DNA Chat at 7pm	17	Ontario Chat 7pm	19	BCGS Library Closed for Vaisakhi Day					
TUES - APRIL 23 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24	25 Wales Chat 7pm	26 SURREY LIBRARIES Fun Family History 2:30pm	27					
 Indigenous Roots Tuesday April 30 Chat 10:30 am Writers Group Tuesday April 30 Chat 6 pm 	MAY 1	Eastern Europe Chat 7pm	3	4					
Intro to DNA Monday May 6 Chat 1 pm	Chinese Genealogy 8 Chat 10am	9	10 SURREY LIBRARIES Family History DNA 2:30pm	11					
	15 EJOURNAL DEADLINE	Canadian Prairies Chat 7pm	17	18					
VICTORIA LONG WEEKEND Monday May 20 Family Tree Maker Chat at 3pm Tuesday May 21 Advanced DNA Chat at 7pm	22	23	24 SURREY LIBRARIES Fun Family History 2:30pm	25					
May 28 Chat 10:30 am Writers Group Tuesday May 28 Chat 6 pm	29	30	31	1 JUNE					



Abbotsford Genealogical Society

Presents

Who: Speaker Barbara Chaworth-Muster What: Daughters of the American Revolution Where: The Reach Gallery and Museum 32388 Veterans Way Abbotsford When: 18 April 2024 at 1:30pm Free Admission Pre registration required On or before 16 April 2024 president@abbygs.ca



HISTORICAL PHOTO DETECTIVE: ROADSHOW

Old photos are full of clues if you know how to read the evidence. Join The Photo Detective, Maureen Taylor, and learn how to date and place old photos. You can submit your own photos for analysis in this ONLINE Roadshow-style program (10-15 photos will be chosen).



SURREY LIBRARIES: FAMILY HISTORY Finding your roots. Telling your story.



FRI, APRIL 12 10-12pm

Registration required 604-598-7328 or familyhistory@surrey.ca

OUR PARTNERS:



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MUSEUM SULLEA



SURREY LIBRARIES liscover.connect.inspire

Online Program

surreylibraries.ca



Sandy Farynuk laying the wreath at Remembrance Day ceremony in Enderby.



Christmas luncheon at Sandra's house: Sandy Farynuk, Sue Gerow, Gloria Christian and Darlene Gerow Jones.

Thompson/Okanagan Branch received it's charter in 1995.

It has never been a large branch but several stalwart members have kept it going all these years. We generally have up to 20 members but many are from distant parts of our zone. They still renew their memberships to keep their interest in the Branch to continue to stay alive.

Sandra Farynuk has been President for 8 years now and like several branches, it floundered during our Covid crisis. We are maintaining a small attendance but are determined to keep it alive as long as we can. We meet generally every other month, sometimes at our meeting place at the Peace Lutheran Church in Vernon, or at a local restaurant or even at a local park for our summer picnic.

We always lay a wreath at the Enderby Cenotaph, as that is where Sandra lives, and usually combine our AGM with our Christmas luncheon. We always dress up in our Loyalist outfits for the AG like several branches, it floundered during our Covid crisis. Sandra likes to keep in touch with the other Pacific branches and has joined as an affiliate to attend their Zoom meetings.

We have appreciated all the help we have received from Dominion and the Pacific directors whenever we have questions.

These four UELAC Pacific Region Branches are here to help you discover your Loyalist history. Chilliwack • Victoria • Thompson/Okanagan and Vancouver Find us at www.uelac.ca/branches/

