

BCGS BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

For Our Members and About Our Members – Celebrating 50 Years in 2021.

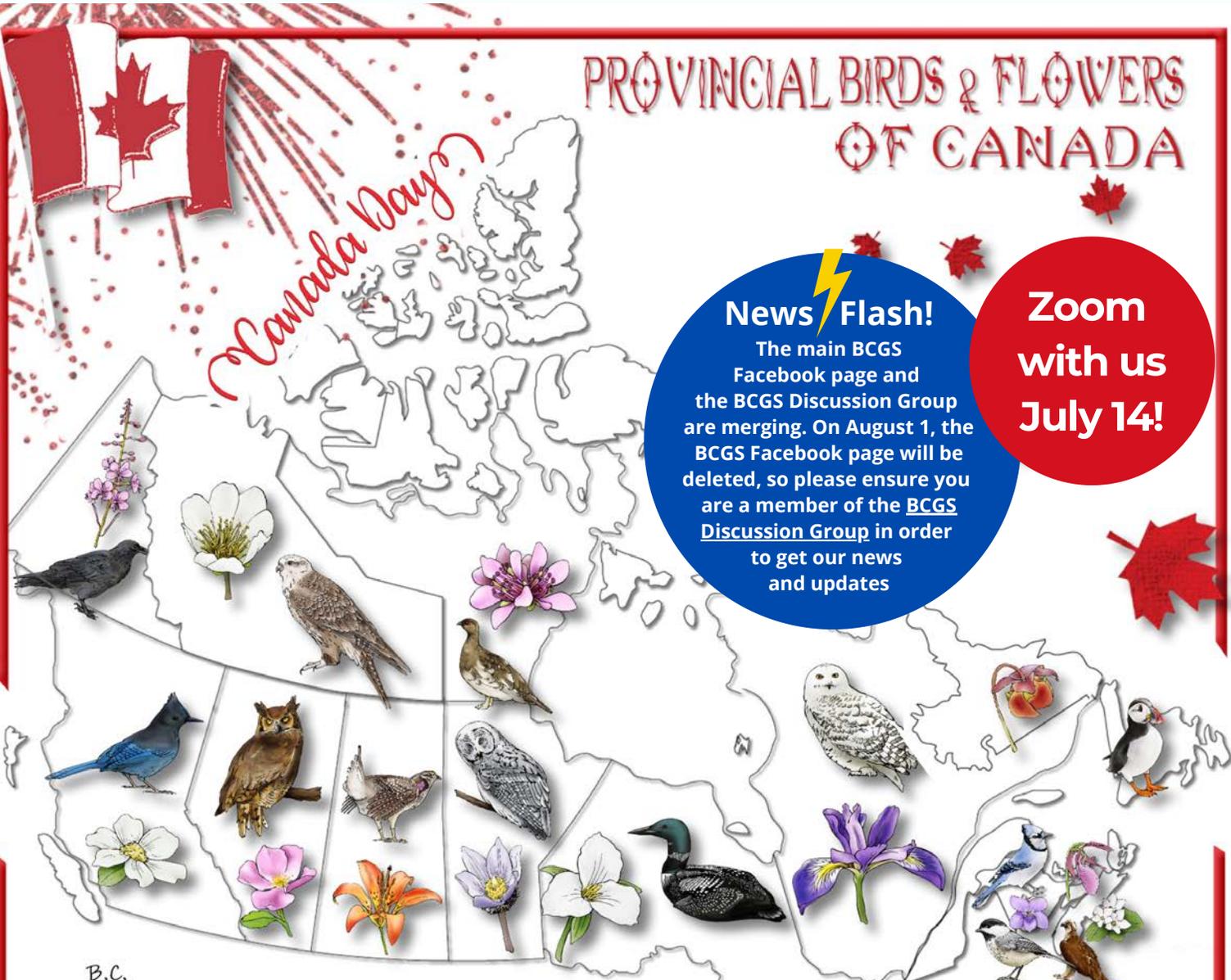
PROVINCIAL BIRDS & FLOWERS OF CANADA

Canada Day

News Flash!

The main BCGS Facebook page and the BCGS Discussion Group are merging. On August 1, the BCGS Facebook page will be deleted, so please ensure you are a member of the [BCGS Discussion Group](#) in order to get our news and updates

Zoom with us July 14!



- B.C.
Blue Jay
Dogwood
- YUKON
Common Raven
Fireweed
- ALBERTA:
Great Horned Owl
Wild Rose
- NWEST TERRITOR
IES:
Gyr Falcon
Mtn Avens
- SASK:
Sharp Tailed Grouse
Western Red Lily
- MAN:
Grey Owl
Prairie Crocus
- NUNAVUT
Rock Ptarmigan
Purple Saxifrage
- ONTARIO:
Common Loon
White Trillium
- QUEBEC:
Snowy Owl
Flag Iris
- NEW BRUNSWICK:
Black Capped Chickadee
Purple Violet
- NS:
Osprey
Mayflower
- PEI:
Blue Jay
Lady's Slipper
- NFLD LABRADOR
Atlantic Puffin
Purple Pitcher Plant

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Welcome

to our new members

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- Jennifer Griffin, New Westminster
- Glenn Smith, Abbotsford

BCGS Newsletter Team

newsletter@bcgs.ca

Sue Sullivan, Sharon Clayton, Jan Graf

Pub Review Team: Margaret Sharon,
Sherry King, Jo-Ann Blomquist, Sally Funk.

British Columbia Genealogical Society

MAILING ADDRESS

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Richmond, BC V6X 3T6

Library: 604-502-9119

Advertising rates available upon request.



Message from the President

Eunice Robinson #112, president@bcgs.ca

I hope you have all enjoyed our various speakers this past month, starting off with **Lucille Campey's** seminar on June 5th. **Jeannie Vance's** presentation "What's New in FamilySearch?" at our June General Meeting gave us so many suggestions and avenues to follow. And **Maureen Taylor's** presentation on old photographs, and what you can glean from them, had me looking at some of the photos I had of my parents and grandparents a bit more closely.

A while ago, **I approached a couple of my older cousins about writing about their memories of our Grandmother, Emily WILLIAMS.** My cousin Linda, sent me a great letter about her impressions of Grandma. We both recalled that Grandma had long white hair that she used to brush 100 strokes every night and every morning. We recalled that she loved to sing, especially hymns, and to crochet, which she did up into her 90's. Linda recalled that Grandma used to be able to take a man's suit or ladies' dress, and completely take it apart, and create a new garment. I think that in today's jargon, that would be called sustainability!

Consider writing a description of one of your ancestors. Start with the physical description – height, weight, dark-complected, fair, hair colour, eyes, etc. Then move on to them as people. Were they kind or austere? Affectionate or somewhat reserved? Were they sweet-tempered, or did they fly off the handle!? Then, perhaps, send what you've written to siblings or cousins, and compare their recollections with yours.

As the Covid numbers seem to be decreasing, the BCGS library is slowly reopening. Check on our website for the dates and times. Our library is one of our most valuable assets, and we encourage our members to come and explore what we have in the stacks.

Until next time, stay safe, get vaccinated, and keep researching.

Memberships (Individual & Affiliate Societies) from July 1 to the end of 2021 are only \$40.

Membership Sale
Only \$40 for the balance of 2021

Affiliate Society Membership Sale
Only \$40 for the balance of 2021

JULY 14th MEETING

Mining for Gold in the Archives

Join Chelsea Shriver and Claire Williams from the University of British Columbia's Rare Books and Special Collections Library

for a special presentation on resources available at RBSC, and an introduction to the recently acquired 'Phil Lind Klondike Gold Rush Collection'.



Chelsea Shriver (MAS/MLIS) is a librarian at Rare Books and Special Collections at UBC Library. Her primary role at RBSC is to provide research and instructional support to UBC students and faculty and the general public. She also coordinates and implements a number of RBSC's outreach activities, including tours and public exhibitions and events.



Claire Williams (MAS/MLIS) is a Natural Resource Archivist at Rare Books and Special Collections at UBC Library. She focuses on the records of lands, waters, and extraction industries in British Columbia and beyond. She works with donors, community members, as well as UBC Students and Faculty to facilitate access and use of these collections.

50th Anniversary Autumn 2021

SEMINARS

Blaine T. Bettinger

September 25

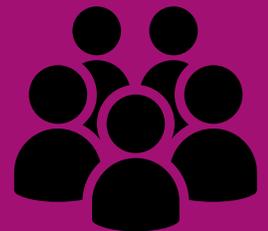
Dave Obee

October 30

Welcome

to our NEW
Affiliate Societies

- Langley Heritage Society
- Sunshine Coast Genealogy Club
- Quesnel Genealogy Society

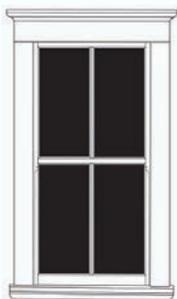


August 11th MEETING

Welcome to Langley Heritage Society



The Langley Heritage Society has an impressive record of restoring heritage buildings in the Langley region; its efforts have been recognized by Heritage BC and the British Columbia Historical Federation. Society president Fred Pepin and board member Mark Forsythe will share stories of how they were restored – and the people who once lived in these buildings. From the original Francophone family to settle on Langley Prairie (Michaud House), to the classic 1915 CNR Station in Fort Langley, and the Lattimer family at Milner. They'll also dip into local Community Stories, and highlight pioneer family names that once marked roads and streets before the numbered system arrived in 1946. Fred has deep knowledge of what's required to restore a house, barn or church – he's done it all. Mark is a former CBC broadcaster who helps shape some of these stories at langleyheritage.ca and has worked with local students on a series of short videos. Fred and Mark look forward to sharing what they know with the BCCS membership!



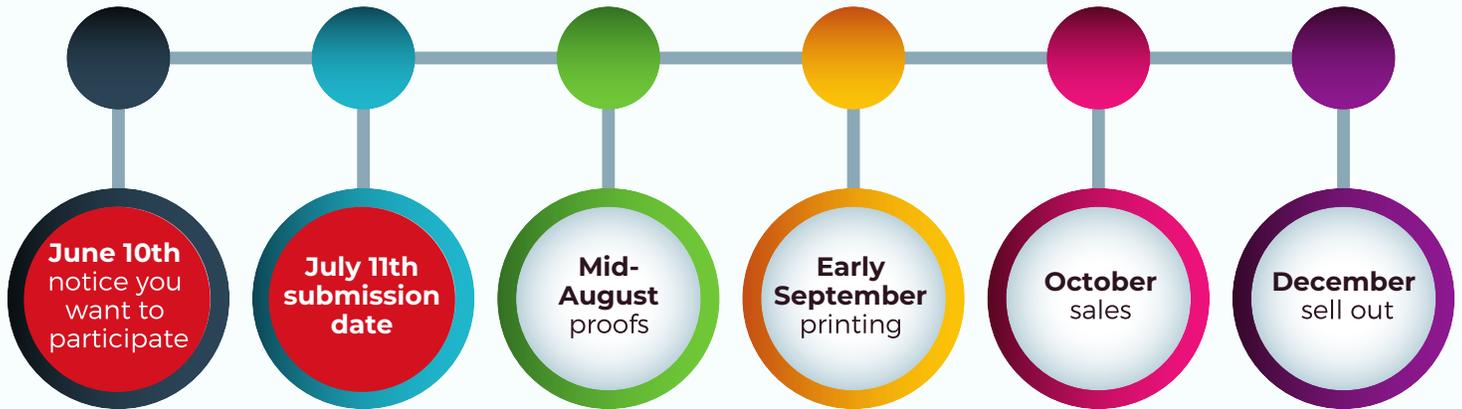
Langley
Heritage
Society

Call for MORE 2022 Calendar Contributions

THERE IS ROOM FOR MORE STORIES!

SEND US A PARAGRAPH WITH A COUPLE OF PHOTOS

---YOU CAN DO IT!---



IDEALLY, AN AREA IN BC NAMED FOR A FAMILY.

Think Buildings, Parks, or Streets, that bear a FAMILY NAME

Sharon Clayton
#5332



CONTACT SHARON CLAYTON OR SUE SULLIVAN AT
calendar@bcgs.ca

Sue Sullivan
#4887



ABOUT YOUR CONTRIBUTION:

- Story should be **200-300 words**.
- Photos to include:
 - The family and caption.
 - The 'place' and caption
 - You with your BCGS membership #
- Society logo if you are an Affiliate Member, plus your name.

FAQ

- The family can be any family/area that you choose to research.
- You do not have to be related to the family—what a bonus if you are!
- We welcome all contributions, from BCGS members, Affiliates and/or non-member family history buffs.

My Oversight & Apology...

In my excitement to show a good sample, I neglected to seek permission for printing & reproducing. It was a terrible oversight and would like to first apologize to **Erica Williams**, *President of the Maple Ridge Historical Society*, the **Maple Ridge Historical Society** and the **Maple Ridge Family History Group** who did the research on the **Haney** family. **Erica Williams** is also the photographer of the Haney House pictured here. **Now used with her permission.** Thank you for your forgiveness, Sue Sullivan



Photo credit: Erica Williams

Thank You to Lucille Campey for Presenting Canada's Irish Pioneers: Their Story



by Cerian Postle,
Member#5226

The 3rd seminar of the BCGS Anniversary series took place on Saturday 5th June and was well attended with over 75 registered attendees. Those of us lucky enough to attend were treated to 2 very interesting and detailed talks by Lucille H. Campey who has written extensively on immigration from the British Isles.

Two surprises were in store for us, the first being that the story of Irish emigration to Canada began as early as the 17th century and the second was to lose the misconception that all emigrants were escaping poverty.



We started with fishermen in Atlantic Canada in 1815 and moved westwards to the ranch lands of Alberta, and the gold lure of British Columbia, finally ending in Victoria. She also explained the importance of both the Boyne settlement in Manitoba and the settlement of Sinnett, founded by Fr. John Sinnett with 8 settlers in 1905. By 1911, there were over 300 people living there. Lucille then gave us a tour of Sinnett as it is today.

If you missed the seminar, try reading her books '*Ontario and Quebec's Irish Pioneers: Farmers, Labourers and Lumberjacks*', and '*Atlantic Canada's Irish Immigrants: A Fish and Timber Story*'.

Numbers not Names: How British Government Publications Can Assist Family Historians in Locating their Ancestors

The second part of Lucille's talk was about how to use British Government Publications to help locate ancestors. The sources included the usual census documents, but also national archives, maritime documents, immigration reports and newspapers.

People from NW Scotland would usually sail from Aberdeen or Leith, with shipping companies leaving the East coast of Scotland. Aberdeen newspapers would often publish lists of travellers and people selling tickets.

Lucille told us about the Polly monument and cemetery in Belfast, PEI, where 800 settlers from the Highlands and Isle of Skye arrived on the ship "The Polly" in 1803.

Between 1838 & 1868, Immigration Agent Alexander Carlisle Buchanan provided valuable guidance to those seeking a new life in Canada. His immigration report at the [National Trust Digital Library](#) give detailed information about where migrants came from, and where they were headed.

I'm sure I wasn't the only person to leave with my head spinning. Lucille packed a lot of education into 3 hours!

Have you ever wondered what to get for a 100th Birthday Gift?



by Jane
Baggott,
Member
#5659

My Great-Aunt Bernice Wilhelmina (Benitz) Bell Celebrated her 100th birthday on April 15, 1995

Auntie Balmy, as she was affectionately known, celebrated her 100th birthday at a country hotel in Surrey, England. One of eight siblings, she was born in Argentina of US parents, had lived on three continents, and had been a widow for 50 years..

It fell to me to represent our immediate family on this momentous occasion and we had to come up with a gift that would be meaningful, but what?

Some 10 years earlier I had accompanied my Dad on a visit to Fort Ross, Sonoma County, California to where his grandfather (*Auntie Balmy's father*) was born. My Dad's German great-grandfather had emigrated to the US from Baden, arriving at Fort Ross in 1842 with little more than his clothes. He managed, rented, and then bought Fort Ross (*therein lies another long story*). The family grew and lived there until 1867 when they sold Fort Ross and subsequently emigrated to Argentina in 1874.

Today, Fort Ross is a State Historic Park. Originally, it was a Russian settlement, established in the early 1800s by the Russian-American Company.



Orthodox Chapel, Fort Ross, California (rebuilt following the 1906 earthquake) Creator: Frank Schulenburg (Copyright: CC BY-SA 4.0)

The goal was to introduce agriculture to the area. The sea otter fur trade had been decimated through over-hunting by the Spanish, British, American and Russian fur trade companies.

In 1985 a conservancy society was organizing the construction of a Visitors Centre and Museum. A guidebook included an 1898 photo of a Fort Ross picnic, organized in honour of the visit of my Dad's German-born great-grandmother. One of the local volunteers proudly commented that they had been able to identify everyone in the photo except for two people - to which Dad said: **"That's my mother, and that's my aunt!"** We returned home with a good quality black and white copy of that photograph.



The picnic photo - June 1898, Fort Ross, California



1992 The Commandant's House where William Otto Benitz was born in 1854

Fast forward a decade... On South Granville Street in Vancouver, there was a photographic shop operated by two ladies who specialized in reproductions. They restored and reproduced our photo in an appropriate sepia finish, and framed it with a Victorian frame.

A review of 1898 Santa Rosa, California newspapers revealed a report of the "visit all the way from Argentina of Mrs. Benitz to visit her old friends" and accompanied by her granddaughters, the misses Hattie and Katherine Benitz. A brief description of the event, with the news clippings, were affixed to the back of the picture frame. And that became the gift from us in Vancouver.

Sixty family members gathered that weekend in 1995 to celebrate Aunty Balmy's 100 years. She was perfectly lucid, and was absolutely delighted with her gift, regaling us with stories about her two

older sisters in the photo. She was full of life, loved the attention she was getting and was the first to get up to get the dancing started! She almost made it to her 103rd birthday.

Our Benitz family has been gathering every five years since 2000. Our first reunion took place on the original ranch in Argentina that had been purchased, 125 years earlier, by Wilhelm Benitz. The ranch remains in the Benitz family. Fort Ross was the chosen destination for two of our reunions.

(Above) **One of my favourite "family research" photos was taken at Fort Ross, in 1992. Our three young sons were posing outside the house where my great grandfather was born in 1854.** It is the only remaining original structure. The entire site has been meticulously restored to reflect the original Russian settlement(s) in the area.

WEDNESDAY, July 14th BCGS MEMBERS' ZOOM MEETING



- A Zoom invitation to the Monthly BCGS Members Meeting will be sent to members, so watch your inbox for the Zoom link, meeting number and password.
- If you don't receive the email by the day before the meeting, please contact info@bcgs.ca for assistance.
- A free Zoom account is needed to join these meetings.



Sharing Stories

by Meg McLaughlin,
member #3847

My stories often feel like they are going out into the ether. At least it seems that way, looking at the reader stats on my blog. No matter, in composing the stories featured there, my research benefits and I find out more about my ancestral lines. That's what happened when I explored a story about one line of Dorset ancestors in 2020. The roots on both sides of my tree lead back to Dorset. A surprising fact, considering my father's birth in London's East End and my mother's nativity in Winnipeg. When my parents were still around, I asked them

whether they were aware of this common link. Neither of them knew of their links to Dorset. They'd never even been there. I made up for this by visiting the village of Evershot with a cousin as I traced my maternal Chubb line. I haven't been able to trace this Chubb family very

far back, but their forward movement from Dorset led them far afield. Those that survived, that is. They died in early adulthood with depressing regularity. Which was why, I suppose, that my maternal grandfather, who immigrated to Canada, named one of his cousins in Australia as his next of kin on his WWI attestation papers. It was a connection my grandfather made closer when he and my grandmother

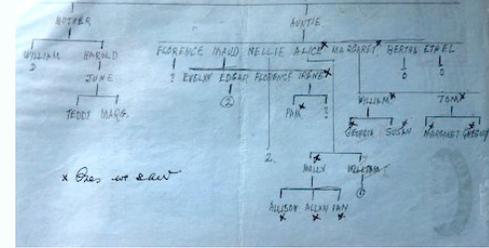
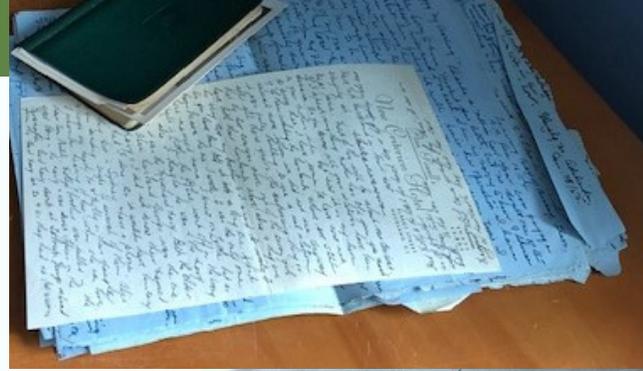
visited his cousins in Australia in 1955. It was a connection I was able to follow through my grandmother's letters about their trip which included a rudimentary family tree my grandfather had drawn up. But the record that enabled me to follow this family with a Chubb mother was their father's military record.

William McKay's record in the Royal Engineers started when he joined in Ireland at the age of 14. He was stationed at Weymouth when he married Henrietta Chubb. He hadn't sought permission which would have affected her status when his unit was transferred to Malta. Did she breathe a sigh of relief when the marriage was recognized?

The McKay story, which the military record helped me piece together, led me to the births of their daughters in Malta and Bangalore. This included the birth of the cousin my grandfather had named on his attestation papers. William McKay's trial for fraud, his dismissal and subsequent reenlistment were also covered, as was his retirement to Australia.

I found it a fascinating story and felt like I was piecing together an epic. I enjoyed exploring the records as I followed the family's travels through various countries. It was a pleasure to be able to share what I had found on my blog. I just wished what I had reached more people.

But it reached a McKay researcher who was able to take that line further back. Now if only it could reach someone from the Chubb line too.



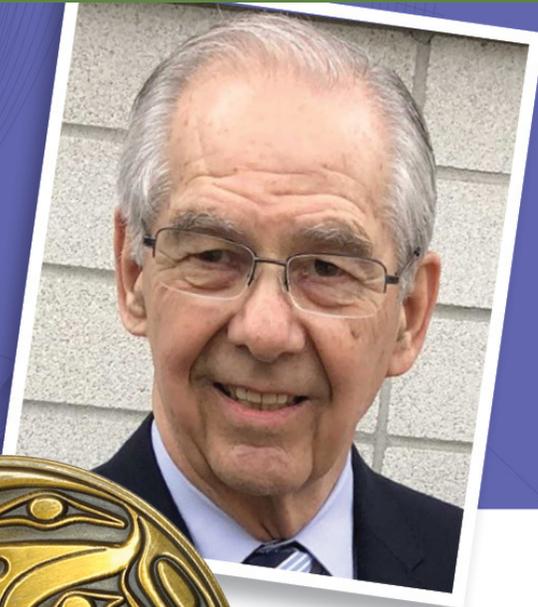
2021
COMMUNITY AWARD RECIPIENT

**Jack
McGee**

West Vancouver, British Columbia



BC Achievement
Community Award



BCGS Member Awarded 1 of 25 2021 BC Achievement Community Awards



by Sharon Clayton
Member #5332

It's not every day that a personally addressed letter from **British Columbia's Premier John Horgan** arrives in **Jack McGee's** mailbox. Imagine the smile on his face as he opened his letter and read these words: *"I would like to express my sincere congratulations on your 2021 BC Achievement Community Award."*

Premier Horgan's letter acknowledged Jack as a founding board member of the **Pacific Autism Family Network (PAFN)**, and co-founder of the **Autism Awareness and Techniques Program for First Responders**. This education program has provided BC frontline workers with a deeper understanding of how to effectively help and work with people with Autism Spectrum Disorder. PAFN initiated and funded the First Responder education program to help police, firefighters, paramedics, call takers, dispatchers and care-givers identify, understand and assist people with autism through increasing awareness and teaching of appropriate response techniques.

BCGS members who know Jack (especially those who attend *Questers group meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each month*) will not be surprised to learn that he has been honoured in this way. We're proud to call you one of us, **Jack McGee, BCGS Member 5477**.

For several years, Jack has been attending educational conferences organized by the RCMP, BC municipal police departments and BC Professional Firefighters. He has also provided in-house training to first responders, before and after their regular work shifts. He says more than 1,000 first responders have attended these in-person training opportunities. Nine thousand

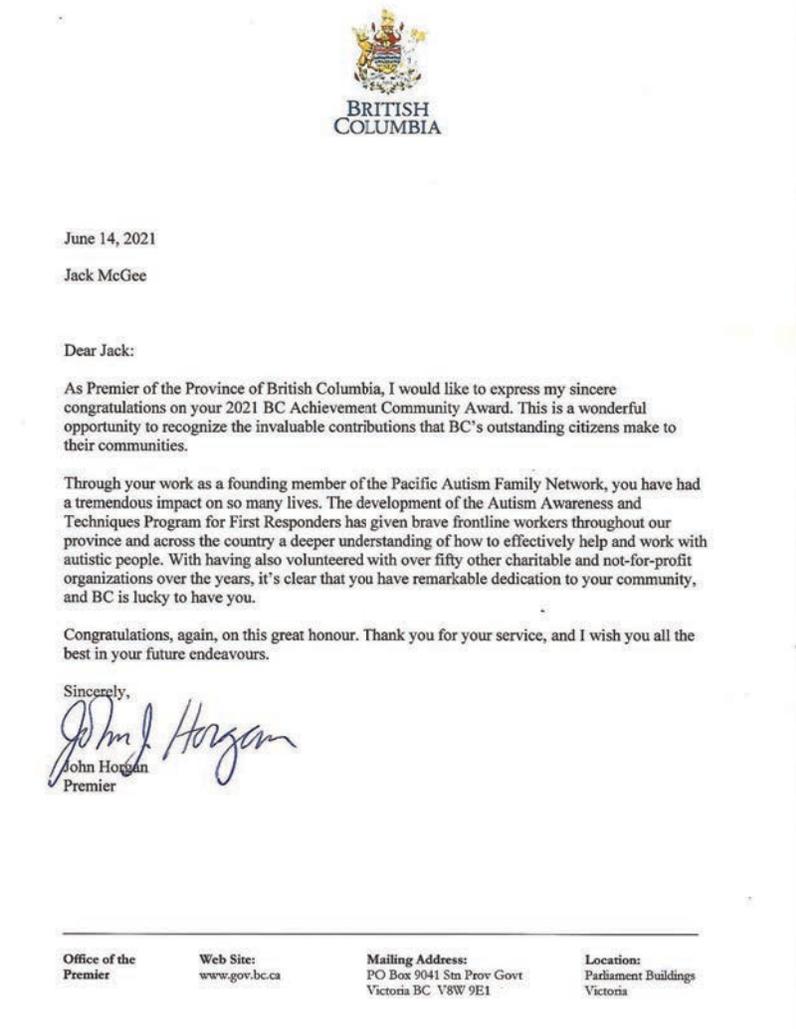


Jack!

TOP: **Jack McGee** (standing) providing *Autism Awareness and Techniques* training to British Columbia fire-fighting First Responders. **Wendy Lisogar-Cocchia**, co-founder (with her husband *Sergio Cocchia*) of the **Pacific Autism Family Network**, is seated to the left of the podium.

police officers have taken advantage of an hour-long online course provided by **The Canadian Police Knowledge Network**. Jack says it has been rewarding to know that so many agencies have been enthusiastic about the training program, and to hear positive feedback from individuals who received the training.

In addition to his work with autism, Jack has volunteered his time and talents to more than 50 other charitable and non-profit organizations. His main focus has been supporting youth, families and the disadvantaged, community sporting organizations, public safety, post-secondary education and hospice services. Currently, he is Treasurer of the PAFN Board of Directors and serves on the Vancouver Board of Directors for the **Sovereign Order of St. John, Knights Hospitaller** supporting St. John Hospice on the UBC campus, and other hospice and



charitable organizations across the province. Because of current restrictions, Jack and his fellow **BC Achievement Community Award** recipients will forgo the excitement of receiving their awards from the **Honourable Lt. Governor Janet Austin** at Government House in Victoria. Let's hope there will be mini-celebrations when couriers deliver this very special medal to each recipient's home.

Office of the Premier Web Site: www.gov.bc.ca Mailing Address: PO Box 9041 Stn Prov Govt Victoria BC V8W 9E1 Location: Parliament Buildings Victoria



from Sharon Clayton
Member #5332

Canada Day in Victoria



Reprinted with permission of the Times Colonist, Victoria.

When Bill and Sharon Clayton hosted visitors from Northern Ireland in the summer of 2010, they caught an early morning ferry to celebrate Canada Day in Victoria. They were four of the hundreds of people wearing red or white t-shirts in this photo that appeared on the cover of the Times Colonist newspaper on July 2, 2010.



Lookin' Good!

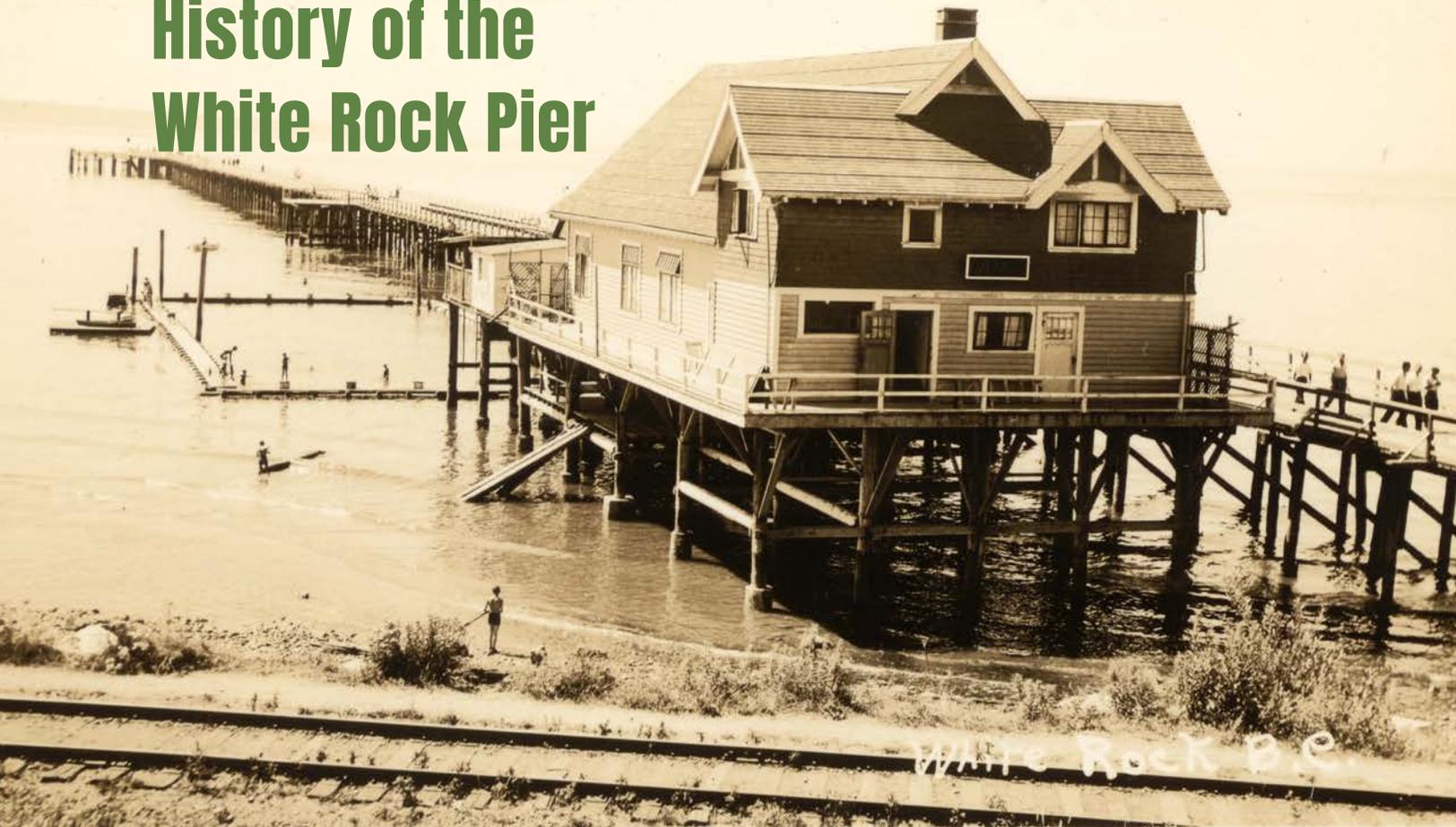
I just had to comment on your “new” Newsletter. Great format and I love the cover page. I like that you have put all names in bold type. I enjoyed several articles including the Benches Project, “When I Croak”, and Marlene Dance’s UEL story, among others. Thanks for sharing, *Valerie Hay*, this looks terrific!!! Love the new design. *Jane* WOW!!! I love the new format — it’s so bright and welcoming! *Margaret*

That looks great, Sue. The way you and Sharon have done the newsletter - it brims with enthusiasm and new ideas I love it! *Jan*

My first comment is - can't think of the right superlative. It's 'wow' - great - makes me wish we had discovered this program earlier. But it is also to your credit. The cover idea also makes me wonder why we didn't think of that. It has the look of a professional magazine. Also noticed many other items. One of which is the Coffee Chats page. Very nice. *Judith*

Sue, Sharon, Jan... Just read the first “ new” newsletter and wanted to let you know that I thoroughly enjoyed it. Very beautifully laid out with lots of white space, which makes for easy reading. It drew my eyes in with its colours and title fonts and sizes. Congratulations on your achievement... you are following in the very successful footsteps of Judith and Linda in a new and exciting way! Thank you for all your work! *June*

History of the White Rock Pier



2000-16-1 The swimming tank and the legion hall next to the pier, ca. 1930.

WHITE ROCK MUSEUM & ARCHIVES

As early as 1890, efforts were being made in White Rock to construct a substantial wharf in order to improve communication with nearby communities. As a customs port of entry, White Rock had customs and immigration offices beside the railway station by 1909, but still lacked an adequate pier. Over the years, several small piers were built, but definite plans for a substantial public wharf did not materialize until 1913.

During that summer, a group of local businessmen invited the Federal Minister of Fisheries and Marine, J. D. Hazen, to visit White Rock. Premeditated cunning ensured that he experienced the hazards of manipulating a floating pier at high tide. By the time he made his way from his yacht to the shore he was convinced that White Rock needed a real pier.

**By Lorraine & Hugh Ellenwood, with the
White Rock Museum and Archives**

The federal government appropriated \$15,000 for the initial 750 feet of the structure, on which the Fraser River Pile Driving Company began work in July 1914. The following summer, work resumed to extend the pier to 1600 feet. The first vessel to tie up was the Fisheries yacht 'Fispa' which had brought Minister Hazen to White Rock two years earlier.

Although the pier was built for the express purpose of shipping, other activities vastly overshadowed any such usage. The White Rock Amateur Swimming Association moored their swim tank to the pier; the Great War Veterans Association built their hall on pilings adjacent to it. When this hall burned in 1935, it was replaced by a more modest building (later the Dolphins restaurant) which, in turn, burned in 1970.

WHITE ROCK

City by the Sea!



1996-36-66 The White Rock pier in the summer of 1918. It was built over the summers of 1914 and 1915.

Union Steam Ships *Lady Alexandra* and *Lady Cynthia* provided recreational cruises from White Rock to Victoria, Bowen Island and the Sunshine Coast, starting in 1931. Returning after a break for the war years, the excursion ships were finally withdrawn in 1954.

The breakwater, constructed in 1953 to improve harbour facilities, was soon dubbed “a \$150,000 seagull roost”, adding credence to the reality that the most enduring and visible use of the pier has always been as a recreational promenade.

Time and the elements had not been kind to the pier, and by the 1970s it was in danger of being torn down. After a hard-fought campaign by the community, it



1993-1-83 The pier was saved from destruction and completely rebuilt in 1977.

was completely rebuilt in 1977, mostly through federal government funding, and most of the structure was turned over to the City of White Rock to manage and maintain. In 1981, the city transferred the management of the pier to the White Rock Sailing Club. In 1986, the management group of the sailing club changed their name to the White Rock Harbour Board. Designated a Heritage Site by Heritage Trust of B.C. in 1982, the pier was classified as recreational by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. It became the property of the citizens of White Rock in 2002.

If you are interested in learning more about White Rock’s history, would like to do research, or if you want to share your memories, please contact us at the White Rock Museum + Archives, 604-541-2225 archives@whiterockmuseum.ca
To learn more about the White Rock Pier, come down and visit our new exhibit- “The Long Pier: White Rock, its pier & community identity” on now until Sept 5, 2021.



Train Plaque Program – Celebrate, congratulate, commemorate, or honour a loved one on the promenade by the sea! Purchase a train plaque and have it inscribed with your special message. Contact us for details at 604-541-2222 /604-541-2221, email us at trainplaques@whiterockmuseum.ca or visit whiterockmuseum.ca

Free Scottish Family History Virtual Conference - 10 July 2021



Learn how to trace your Scottish family history!
This 'timezone friendly' event is free to watch on Zoom and Facebook.
The 16-hour conference (11 pm Friday to 3 pm Saturday PDT)
hosted by genealogists Graham and Emma Maxwell

A full list of presentations can be found on www.scottishindexes.com, including:

- 'Merchant and Trades House Records' by Dr. Irene O'Brien
- 'Tracing Scottish Women' by Kirsty Wilkinson
- 'Tracing Scottish Ancestors Before 1855' by Alison Spring
- 'Overcoming Brick Walls: Case Studies' by Emma Maxwell

The **Q&A sessions** are always a highlight of a Scottish Indexes Conference. They are an opportunity for attendees to ask questions and receive help from our panel of experts. **Cinda Baxter, professional genealogist** says, "A huge and hearty thanks again to Emma and Graham for providing the virtual conference. What a labour of love (and terrific gift) during these crazy times."

Emma Maxwell, genealogist and co-founder of scottishindexes.com says, "By hosting a 16-hour marathon event, we're able to engage with people the world over."

Registration is free on Zoom and Facebook.
Follow the directions on www.scottishindexes.com

About www.scottishindexes.com:

www.scottishindexes.com is run by husband and wife team Graham and Emma Maxwell, both experienced Scottish genealogists. As well as helping clients with their family histories, Graham and Emma also index historical Scottish records and make them available for free on their website.

JULY LEGACY TREE WEBINARS

Webinars are FREE to attend. Subscriptions are available if you wish to have unlimited access to all webinars and handouts. [CLICK HERE FOR FULL DETAILS](#)

Death is not the end - litigation remains: Exploring...

by Cathie Sherwood
Tue, Jul 06, 2021;
Wed, Jul 07, 2021



Register (Free)

Grandpa's Eyes and Grandma's Hair: Tracing the Origin...

by Paul Woodbury
Wed, Jul 07, 2021



Register (Free)

A MyHeritage Webinar Series webinar

by MyHeritage Webinars
Tue, Jul 13, 2021



Register (Free)

Comparing Jewish Resources on the Giant Genealogy Websites

by Ellen Kowitt
Wed, Jul 14, 2021



Register (Free)

Using Irish newspapers and other printed material

by Natalie Bodle
Fri, Jul 16, 2021



Register (Free)

The Time of Cholera: A Case Study about Historical Context

by Alison Hare, CG
Tue, Jul 20, 2021;
Wed, Jul 21, 2021



Register (Free)

That Scoundrel George

by Judy G. Russell, JD, CG, CGL
Wed, Jul 21, 2021



Register (Free)

A MyHeritage Webinar Series webinar

by MyHeritage Webinars
Tue, Jul 27, 2021



Register (Free)

Specialized Lineage Societies - more than just DAR, Dames...

by Kimberly Ormsby Nagy
Wed, Jul 28, 2021



Register (Free)



CLIFTON HOUSE IN BELFAST

Free Online Irish History talks

5am & 11am PST, Ongoing to July 14

Clifton House in Belfast, along with their partners, will run a series of unique free events to celebrate the life, legacy and relevance today of Mary Ann McCracken, on what would have been her 250th birthday.

[TO SEE THE FULL LIST OF EVENTS AND TO REGISTER, CLICK HERE](#)

CONFERENCE KEEPER

Genealogy Webinars, Zoom Meetings, and all kinds of genealogy-related online events! [CLICK HERE TO VIEW UPCOMING VIRTUAL EVENTS](#) Please note that *ConferenceKeeper.org* is not associated with any of the listed events, but provides the information as a service.

Verify all event information and details on the hosting entity's website. If you need assistance regarding a specific event, please contact the hosts.

THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES (UK)

Ongoing Talks, Webinars and Live Q & A's

[Click here to get to the National Archives online page of Events!](#)



Diahana
Southard



Shannon
Christmas



Alec
Ferretti



Maurice
Gleeson

4th Annual 'A Summer of DNA' virtual conference is happening on Saturday, 31st July 2021

Speakers will be talking about the following:

- DNA Ethnicity in 2021: More Inclusive, Specific, Accurate and Meaningful
- Jewish DNA: Strategies to Analyze Endogamy
- DNA Strategies for African American Genealogy Research
- Leveraging DNA to Research Your Irish Ancestry

The online sessions will begin at 7am PDT on Sat, 31st July 2021.

Early bird registration is only \$19.99 USD until July 17th.

[Register with this link](#)

BRITISH ISLES FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY OF GREATER OTTAWA

Virtual Conference

September 19-26, 2021

Irish Lines and Female Finds,

\$45 CAD, [REGISTER HERE](#)

Your registration includes access to all 15 sessions over the five-day conference, access to speaker handouts before the conference and limited-time access to recordings of all presentations for two weeks after the end of the conference.



THE FRENCH CANADIAN
GENEALOGIST

Discover Your French- Canadian Roots

Learn more at www.tfcg.ca

Research • Translation •
Photo Restoration



SCOTTISH SIG WEBINARS - FREE

Organized by Christine Woodcock -
Offered by the Scottish SIG of Ontario
Ancestors — All Webinars take place at
10am EST/ **7am PDT**.

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL WEBINARS

SEPT 27 Cataloguing Archives
Presented by Archivist George MacKenzie
[REGISTER HERE](#)

OCT 20 Lothian National Health Archives
presented by Archivist Louise Williams
[REGISTER HERE](#)

NOV 18 Scottish Marriage: Instantly Buckled
for Life presented by Genealogist Chris Paton
[REGISTER HERE](#)

DEC 9 Customs, Traditions and Superstitions
presented by Christine Woodcock
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Mayflower International Genealogical Conference in Plymouth England - cost £5 1620—2020 400th Anniversary • 28th of August 2021

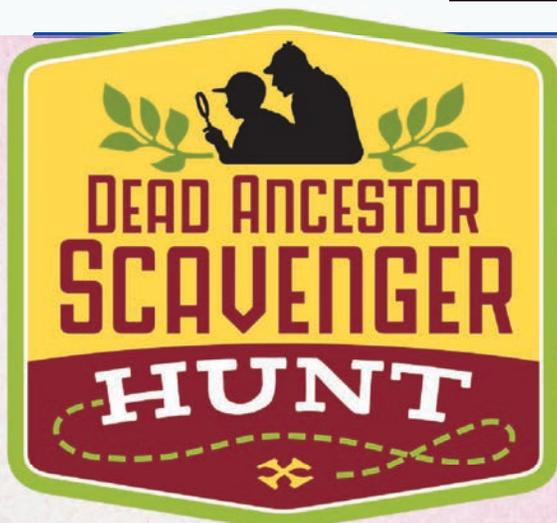
They have experienced wars, epidemics, changes in their ways of life, perhaps wealth or poverty. Their children survived and you are here.

With some guided research and possibly a DNA test, you too could name your ancestors, perhaps back to 1620.

The Mayflower passengers decided to undertake a voyage that contributed to the development of today's United States of America.

Their reasons were varied. Those later called Pilgrims escaped religious persecution; servants hoped to improve their status; tradesmen had skills to share; merchants sailed to find new sources of trade and wealth; the captain and crew had a job to take all safely to their destination - although the Mayflower didn't arrive where they had planned.

For more information click here



ADVERTISEMENT

DEAD ANCESTOR SCAVENGER HUNT!

Team Registration is FREE & Opens July 2 at
www.familyancestrees.com

BCGS Members: create a Detective Team with a child or grandchild. Get ready for Summer research fun. Follow the clues through the summer as you build your family tree.

**All final entries will receive a
Gift Package and one lucky team will get an
AncestryDNA kit and a Timeline Poster**

For more info email: graphics@familyancestrees.com
or join the [Dead Ancestor Scavenger Hunt Facebook Group](#)

"We are not makers of history.
We are made by history."

– MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR

BCGS.ca – Website Team Report



Sheila Albrecht, #1046

Ann Buchanan, #5583

Jan Graf, #5382

BCGS Members' Surname Interests

The Register of Members' Surname Interests has now been updated for 2021 and includes all submissions received to date from current members.

If you have submitted names to the register, please take a moment to check your entries to ensure they are accurate and up-to-date. Remember, you can submit as many names as you wish.

If you haven't submitted your surnames, now is the time! The BCGS Surnames Register is available to the general public on our website, so anyone from anywhere in the world can check the listings. Who knows – maybe someone researching the same names as you will log on and find you and together you can break down those brick walls!

View them now at [Members' Surname Interests](#).

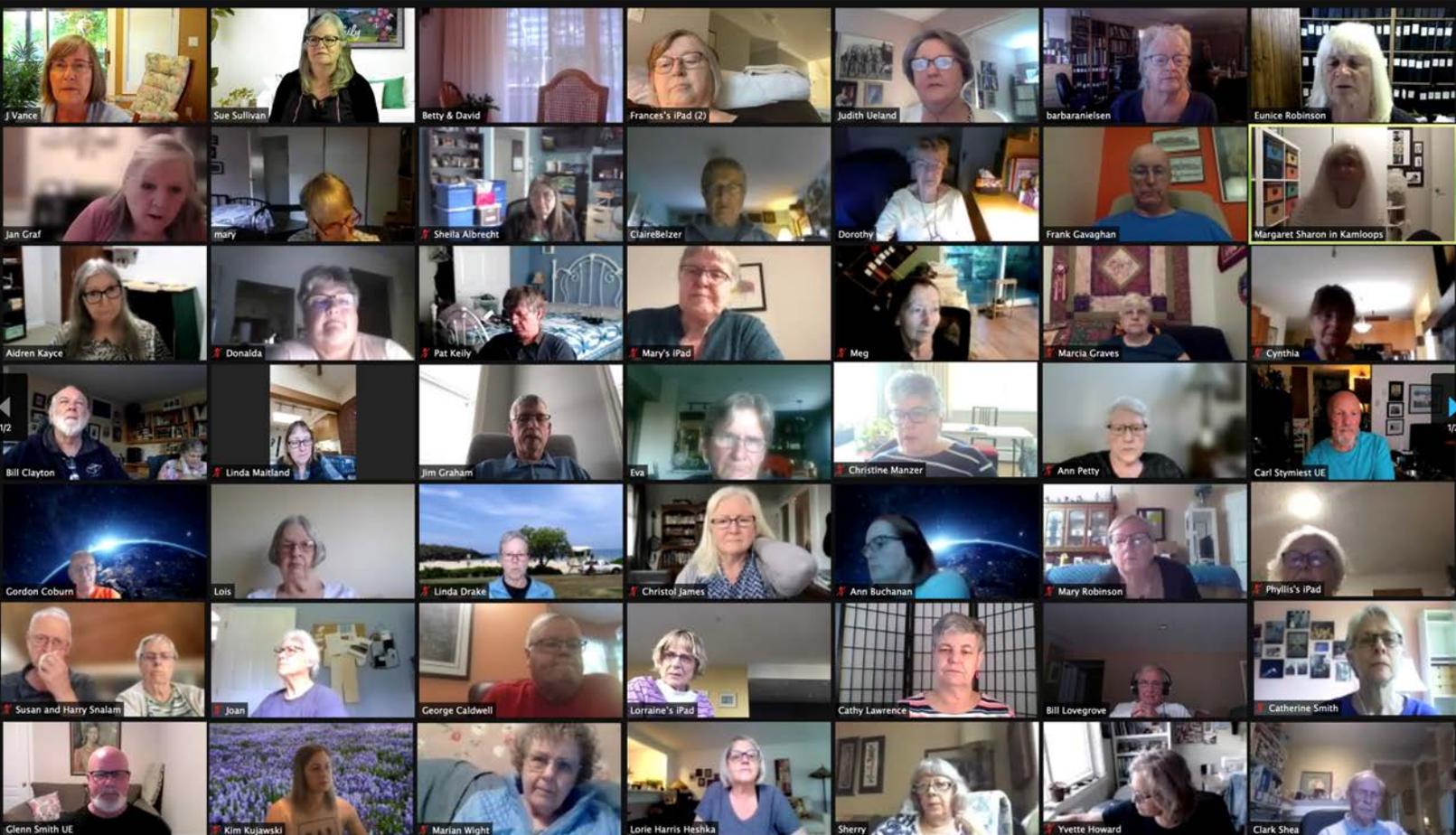
BCGS Coffee Chats

Thanks to the hard work of Ann Buchanan, our Coffee Chat pages have been going through an extensive update. They have a whole new look and a lot of updated information, including some of the BCGS Library holdings that pertain to the topic or location of interest.

On these pages, you will still find links to many useful websites to assist you with your research, with new ones having been added to some of the pages.

We have also added an "Announcements & News" section to some of the pages, with links to upcoming events and seminars pertaining to the subject.

We invite you to check out the new and improved [BCGS Coffee Chat](#) pages online.



JUNE Meeting Chit Chat

Judith Ueland #4913

Jeannie Vance (*our speaker for the evening*) checked with **Sue Sullivan** about someone researching Quebec adoptions. Sue spoke about having multi-connections in Quebec, as Jeannie says she has in Prince Edward Island.

Barry Kirk announced that Salt Lake City's **Family History Library** will reopen on July 6th. It's name is changing to **FamilySearch Library**. LDS Family History Centers will now be called **FamilySearch Centers**.

The **Sea Island Heritage Society** is gathering stories, photos and memories about the history of Sea Island (*where Vancouver International Airport is located*).

An interview with Sea Island Heritage Society President **Eunice Robinson** and Vice President **Barbara Nielsen** are featured on the society's Facebook page: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3WqH2iXceho>

Margaret Sharon, in Kamloops and **Barbara Nielsen**, in Surrey are distant 'cousins' through marriage - one of Margaret's aunts married a member of Barb's Chadsey family. The complicated relationship was fun to find and shows the lengths some genealogists will go to while exploring distant family relationships.

Marcia Graves told a story about visiting Crewkerne in Somerset, England where her Dad was born. While attempting to buy tickets to Crewkerne, the ticket agent claimed there was no such place. After purchasing the tickets and arriving in



Members at the meeting without showing their beautiful faces include: Colin Stevens, Jane Thomas, Lynne Fletcher, Sharon Bennett, Don Calder, Judith Galpin, Terry Smith, Jo-Ann Blomquist, Lorie Harris Heshka, Marilyn, J & M Laing, Linda Moorcroft, Gina Dingwell, Clint Meyers, Tony Sainsbury, Bob in Comox, Karen W, Janice Wilkin, Elizabeth, Daphne Kelly, Marilyn, Warren, Sandra Cunliffe, Judy Isaac, Barry Kirk and Linda T.

Crewkerne, Marcia was pleased to learn that her pronunciation of the name was correct.

Marcia's mother came from Wiltshire. Her grandmother's family has been researched back to the 1100s in Great Bedwyn in Wiltshire. Marcia's grandfather was born in Market Lavington, Wiltshire, a market town on Salisbury Plain. When visiting Edmonton, Alberta in 1906, Marcia's grandfather compared the area to Wiltshire.

Claire Belzer also has family from the same area in England. Her grandmother came from Kilmington, Somerset and her grandfather hailed from Wiltshire.

The British television program *Escape to the Country* features people wishing to move to various locations in the British Isles. For some BCGS members, the program offers virtual tours of areas that are of interest for family history research. The conversation moved on to accents, and how those who immigrated tended to retain their accents throughout their lives in Canada. The discussion progressed to the pronunciation of the names of various

shires: Leicestershire (*where Richard III was found buried under a car park*) becomes Lestershire and Gloucestershire is Glostershire.

Jan Graf immigrated to Canada with her family in the 50s. When visiting England, they thought they had retained their accents, until they were told that they sounded 'Canadian'.

Joan Smith: I went to Australia in 1967 to teach school. I walked into a grade 8 class, where a girl said "*Miss, somebody flogged me biro*". I figured out "stole my..." but she couldn't tell me what a "biro" was, because that was the only name she knew for it. The "Biro" was named for the man who invented the ballpoint tip in pens!

Although we all speak English, different accents can be hard to understand, but the problem is not insurmountable. During their first visits to Europe, both **Eunice Robinson** and **Sheila Albrecht** had a difficult time understanding the locals they were visiting. But in subsequent trips, they were able to translate conversations to their children who were accompanying them. Familiarity with the sounds, perhaps?

BCGS BUSINESS JUNE MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The meeting began at 7:31 pm with 83 people attending.

The approval of the **May minutes** was moved by **Jim Graham**, with **Margaret Sharon** seconding. Carried unanimously.

The **BCGS Genealogical Library** is re-opening. Before planning a visit check the catalogue for desired research material. It was also noted that BC Research volunteers will help with searches.

Bill Clayton Bottles and Cans **Fundraising** report. Bill has deposited \$1005.95 to date. There will be more to come for the month.

The Supplemental ballots for updates to the **By-laws** were read out by Bill Clayton. Jim Graham announced the ballot numbers for each of the six motions. All were approved.

A motion to destroy received ballots was moved by **Bill Clayton** and seconded by **Judith Ueland**. Motion passed. **Terri Mackenzie** was thanked for working out how to do the voting electronically. The bylaw changes can now go to Victoria.

Financial Statements are available in the Members Resources section of the website.

50th Anniversary Seminar Series Spring Sessions have concluded. A Fall Series is planned with Blain Bettinger in September and Dave Obee in October. A November session is being planned.

Marian Cote Malley spoke about Find A Grave and the confusion about the cemeteries in Chemainus, BC. Are there two separate cemeteries? I.e: All Saints Anglican and/or Westhome Cemetery.

Sue Sullivan –The **BCGS 2022 Calendar** Team is looking for short write-ups on families whose name marks a place in BC. If there is a bridge or building named for your family we would love to hear about that too! Stories about ancestors connected to Canada Day – July 1st would be welcome. Respond to Calendar@bcgs.ca

A volunteer is needed for the **Facebook Discussion** page. Contact info@bcgs.ca

Library EPubs Dorothy Jones needs help with downloading publications from other societies to our computers. These will be transferred to the website at a future time.

Carl Stymiest: **The United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada** has entered into a contract with FamilySearch for the digitization of all UE Loyalist Ancestor Certificate Applications dating back to 1914 - approximately 80,000 documents to date. The digitization project will continue once the border is reopened.

This portion of the meeting was completed and the screen was passed to **Jeannie Vance** for her talk entitled **“What is New in Family Search”**. **Yvette Howard** volunteered to write a review of the presentation.

Margaret Sharon mentioned that the City of Kamloops maintains an [online database](#) of interment records. The website is unclear on this, but search results cover only the city's two active cemeteries, Hillside and Pleasant Street, and will show the exact location of the grave on a plot map. The database doesn't contain any personal information, but you might find more on FindAGrave (findagrave.com/memorial/search?locationId=city_251380).

June 9, 2021 BCGS Members Meeting

Educational Presentation by Jeannie Vance, FamilySearch Centre, Surrey



Getting the Most Out of FamilySearch

Review by Yvette Howard, #5770

At our June BCGS general meeting, we had the pleasure of hearing from Jeannie Vance, Director of the Surrey FamilySearch Center (formerly Family History Center). She gave an informative talk called, "Getting the Most out of Family Search." She provided us with an overview of the FamilySearch website and some of its more interesting features, and followed up by highlighting some of the updates that have been made in the last year.

FamilySearch is a free non-profit, volunteer-driven website sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, whose purpose is "to gather, preserve and share genealogical records." They have been 'gathering' since the 1800s with a collection of over six billion records. The website offers a community family tree, public and private media storage, 500,000 digital books, a research wiki, online classes, as well as help finding and using records.

What's UPDATED on FamilySearch?

Records – 1 billion added in 2020; overall search capability has been improved including the ability to search alternate names at the same time (*e.g., maiden, married, spelling variations*); it is also now possible to search for a person in relationship to others outside of the standard spouse, father or mother

Images – able to view most recently added images as well as search by location

Genealogies – site members can upload their own non-editable tree using a GEDcom file for other members to view

Languages – now 30 languages and working on more

Indexed Records – images are uploaded as they work through the collection, no longer need to wait until an entire collection is complete



Jeannie Vance

Where to Find Information on FS

- Records – indexed and unindexed records
- Images as they are uploaded
- Catalog of actual and digitized Films
- Digital Books
- Genealogies
- Family Tree
- Research Wiki



What's NEW on FamilySearch?

More: New on FS Family Tree

- Improved “attach sources” features
- Sex - same sex relationships may now be added to the tree
- Unfinished attachments – FS reminds you if an attached source contains names of other individuals
- Improved FAN CHART – more views, more generations
- See who is following people you follow

New on FS Family Tree & Memories

- DISCOVERY PERSON PAGE – see all the information about a person on one webpage
- Following (formerly “Watch”) – now add labels to your list – even create your own labels
- Memories – choose level of privacy, organize by topic, create a slideshow or share an album
- Mobile app is improved and has more features including the Fan Chart

Messaging System – new look with auto-fill contact names, more control over conversations (*now able to delete, mute & report abuse*)

Attach Sources – now automatically standardizes the date when you attach a source to someone in your tree

Fan Chart – when you set your tree view to Fan Chart, you can now choose to show 4 - 7 generations, and then highlight by the Family Lines, Birth Country, Sources, Stories, Photos or Research Helps

Mobile App – more features added including the fan chart

Discover Person Page (*also called Ancestor Discovery Page*) – this is a summary page of your ancestor where you can do everything from viewing photos and timelines of your ancestors’ lives to exploring their heritage and world events that occurred during their lifetime. You can even discover the meaning of their name; The Discover Person page will be searchable through Google without logging in to FamilySearch.

Online research consultations – free 20-minute virtual consultations with an expert in your area of interest
https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Virtual_Genealogy_Consultations

Following – (*formerly ‘Watch’*) you can add your own labels, see who else is following that person and sort your ‘following’ list.

Memories – the ability to label and arrange items by topic and even create a slideshow or an album. Privacy has been increased.

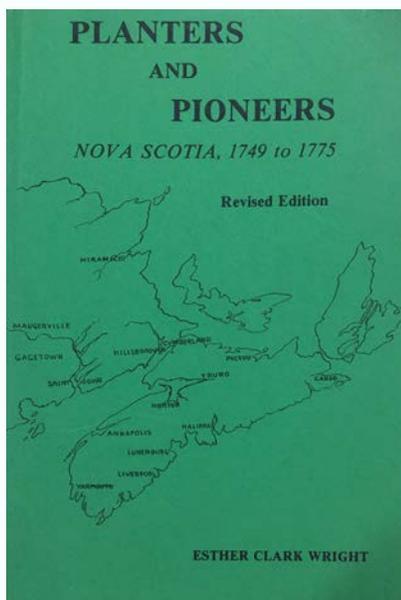
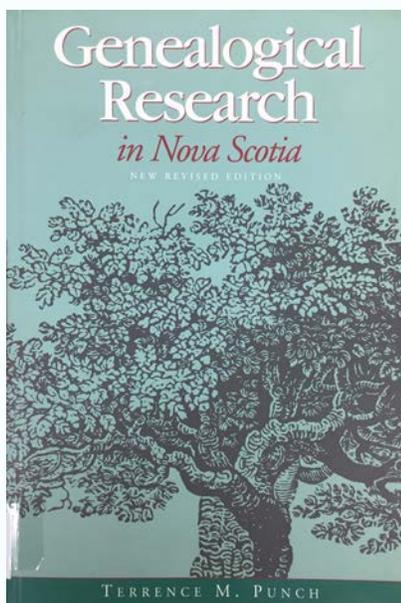
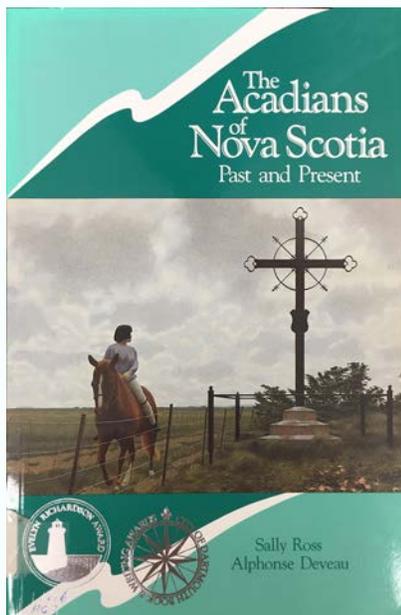
Relationships – now include same-sex relationships.

Unfinished Attachments – gives an alert reminding you to attach everyone listed in a record to the tree

Lookups – FamilySearch Library staff in Salt Lake City will do lookups on premium databases, films and books; there is an online form to complete (*response may take a few days*) <https://bit.ly/3vxArJq>

Research Recommendation

From Normandie Miller · I would like to recommend to any members researching Australia, a thesis presented in “Lost Cousins” titled The Immigration of Domestic Servants to Western Australia in the 1850s and 1890s. It also provides a picture of the women of the upper classes in both England & Australia in this period.



Report from between the Library Stacks



**Corrine Jubb #5215,
BCGS Library Administrator**

Nova Scotia is Canada's second smallest province. Originally inhabited by the Mi'kmaq indigenous people, the area had its first European colony in 1605. For those researching Acadian and Loyalists ancestors in Nova Scotia, the BCGS Library collection includes these books:

971.6 ROS by Sally Ross & Alphonse Deveau -
"The Acadians of Nova Scotia, Past and Present"

971.6 PUN by Terrence M. Punch- "Genealogical Research in Nova Scotia, new revised edition"

971.6 WRI by Esther Clark Wright -
"Planters & Pioneers, Nova Scotia 1749 to 1775"

FUNDRAISING

\$1,142.20
JUN 25

\$975: May 27

\$727: APR 30

2021 GOAL: \$2,200

POP CANS & RETURNABLE BOTTLES

Big thanks to those who have dropped off bottles and cans at the library and in Bill Clayton's driveway. Your donations are very much appreciated. Anyone with a donation to drop off can contact Bill at **604.329.1721**. The Library is gradually re-opening, so please continue to drop off your pop cans and bottles there, if that is convenient for you. Email billclayton@shaw.ca.

These funds are for the **Alice Louise Marwood Fund (ALM Fund)**, which is dedicated to the upkeep of the Library. Bill processes the donations each week and makes monthly deposits to the BCGS.



Message from the BCGS eJournal Editor

Lynne Fletcher #5353
eJournal Editor



Last evening, as I sat waiting for the traffic light to change, I noticed a steady stream of trucks and cars going by, loaded with camping gear, kayaks and bicycles. Summer holidays have begun, the weather is sunny and hot and the borders (provincial ones) are open!

I fondly remember the summer trips from my childhood, with six people and all the camping gear and food stuffed into one Pontiac two-door. How we looked forward to that trip and the new places we would visit, and the aunts, uncles and cousins that we stayed with along the way. I have a picture of my mother's family (*all seven of them*) standing in front of a 1920s vintage car, with Granny's parents. That might be the trip to Prince George that she told me about, when they camped all the way across the southern province and then north to Prince George, and tried to make coffee with salt water (*didn't realize that the water source was an inlet, not a lake*).

Do you have a memory of a special summer trip, one that brought not only summer fun but also an insight into your parents' or grandparents' early life in this new country?

Could you share these with our readers? We look forward to reading your story! Please send your story and pictures (if possible) to

Journal@bcgs.ca



PACIFIC REGION

WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

- Fraser Valley
- Vancouver Island
- Thompson/Okanagan area
- Lower Mainland

The four UELAC Pacific Region Branches are here to help you discover your Loyalist history.

We'd love to hear from you! Find us at uelac.ca/branches/



GENEALOGY GEMS & ODDITIES in our BCGS Genealogical Library

TWO UNUSUAL RESOURCES FOR SOMERSET, ENGLAND



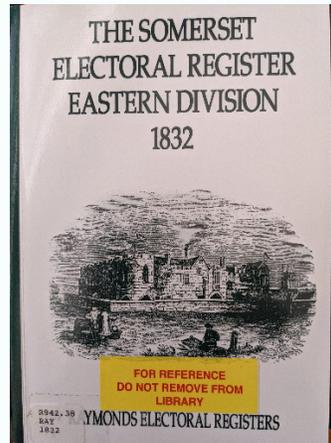
by Celia Lewis,
#5183

1.R942.38 / RAY 1832 Somerset Electoral Register, Eastern Division 1832

This excellent small Reference book is organized by the Hundred, an Anglo-Saxon land division originally meant to be large enough to provide for 100 households. To help find where the Hundred is in the Eastern Division of Somerset, try using this link at FamilySearch, choosing Hundred from the drop-down tab above Somerset map:

<https://www.familysearch.org/mapp/>

The Eastern Division of these Hundreds abuts Gloucestershire and Wiltshire, plus the Bristol Channel. Within each Hundred, households are listed by Parish. Individuals in each Parish are numbered from 1st to 8996, the last in the book. In four columns, the Christian name/surname of each Voter is in full, their current place of Abode, Nature of their Qualification [to vote], and Details of the Abode/name of property or name of Tenant. You will find a few persons in the latter list written as Mr.____; remember that Mr. is a status designation. If you have ancestors found in the 1841 or 1851 Censuses in the eastern part of Somerset, this book may well provide you with a link further back, more property information and clues for further research. *Note we have about 100 books/guides edited or written by Stuart A. Raymond in our catalogue.*

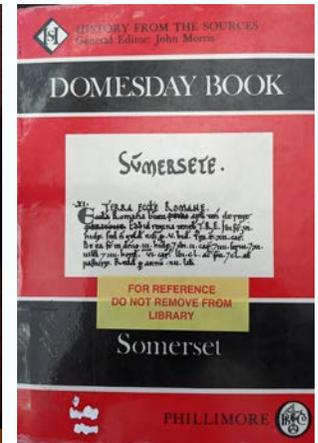


11.R942.38 / MOR Domesday Book: Sumersete

Although this Reference 1086 Domesday Book seems large and heavy, each pair of pages in the book also shows the 1783 edition printed by Abraham Farley, thus known as Farley's text. The original old English is on the left, the current English is on the right. Hmmm, this might be a lesson in reading 1086 English along with the Latin and contractions as well?

The Introduction to the book by the General Editor John Morris is very helpful and highly recommended. Included are Notes to the text, further information, details of individual holdings, 3 Appendices, an Index of Personal Names, an Index of Places, Maps and Map keys, and so much more.

While we likely won't find our own ancestors in this very early 'census' of the country, 20 years after William I became King, there is quite a bit of information for each village, including the value in taxes of each holding. I particularly enjoyed the many non-Norman names: Herlwin, Fulcran, Brungar, Azelin.



UPGRADES

Report from Robert Marcoux and Sharon Clayton, #5332

- Beautiful, Recently Christened New Ship!
- Revised Dates
- More Cabins available
- Additional Glacier Stop
- [Follow Facebook for Current News](#)




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*Meet the
Koningsdam*

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DEPARTS SEPT 17 • RETURNING SEPT 24



MORE RESTAURANTS • MORE CHOICES • MORE FUN



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Skagway DAY 4
Juneau DAY 3 AFTERNOON & EVENING
Tracy Arm Inlet DAY 3 MORNING
Ketchikan DAY 6
Vancouver DAY 1

SEA DAYS (2 & 7)
GENEALOGY SEMINARS WITH
BLAINE BETTINGER & MARY KATHRYN KOZY

SCENIC CRUISING THE INSIDE PASSAGE

*Plus an evening
in Juneau!*



CRUISE • 2022



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Cabins
are Now
Available*

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Sept 17-24, 2022

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Coffee Chats on Zoom

—also known as **Special Interest Groups [SIGs]**—

Before COVID, Chats were held at the BCGS Genealogical Library. The library is slowly re-opening. Coffee Chats will remain on Zoom for now. Watch this space and the website for breaking news.



ONTARIO COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, July 8—7 to 9 pm
 With Janet White
 RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



QUEBEC QUESTERS COFFEE CHAT
Saturday, July 10—10 am to noon
 RSVP Linda Maitland
lindamaitland@telus.net



Germans from Russia COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, July 15—7 to 9 pm
 With Eunice Robinson
 RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



NEW ADVANCED DNA COFFEE CHAT
Tuesday, July 20—7 to 9 pm
 With Terry Hartley, Jim Graham &
 Kathleen Graham
 RSVP Terry Hartley terhart1@gmail.com



CANADIAN PRAIRIES COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, July 22—7 to 9 pm
 With Judith Ueland
 RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



SCOTLAND COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, July 29—7 to 9 pm
 With Lorraine Irving
 RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



BC COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, August 5—7 to 9 pm
 With Janet White
 RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



USA COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, August 12—7 to 9 pm
 With Judith Ueland
 RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ENGLAND COFFEE CHAT
Thursday, August 19, 7 to 9 pm
 With Ann Buchanan
 RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY COFFEE CHAT
Introductory DNA
Taking a break until September
 RSVP Sharon Clayton
sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY COFFEE CHAT
Parental Puzzles (NPE)
Taking a break until September
 RSVP Sharon Clayton
sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



CHINA COFFEE CHAT
Taking a break until October
 RSVP Linda Yip
hello@past-presence.com



TBA CHATS: coffeechat@bcgs.ca
 ATLANTIC CANADA
 IRELAND
 With Eunice Robinson
 ORGANIZING YOUR RESEARCH
 With Eunice Robinson
 SCANDINAVIA
 With Eunice Robinson



50 YEARS

50 Years Ago—July 1971

Derailed freight turns to fireball

1971

50 YEARS AGO
Train Derailment
VINSULLA, BC

ON MONDAY, JULY 19, 1971, a train derailment near Vinsulla (north of Kamloops) was labeled “Dante’s Inferno”. The derailment affected 53 of the 94-cars in a freight train carrying four cars of propane and several cars containing elemental sulphur. The Kamloops Airport recorded that day’s temperature as 100.94° F (38.3° C). An investigation into the cause of the derailment speculated that excessive heat had caused the track to warp.

In a retrospective *North Thomson Star/Journal* article published May 13, 2013, a staff writer wrote that brakeman Gerry Hill made the dangerous decision to run from the front of the

train to uncouple the intact propane cars from the exploded one. Engineer Fraser McLeod was then able to pull the locomotives and four cars to safety. The article reported, “Eye witnesses say that when the blast went off, the burning car took off like a rocket, cleared some wreckage and then disappeared in a writhing fireball like “Dante’s inferno”. It lit up the valley and shook windows 17 miles away in Kamloops.”

Vinsulla rancher William Matuga was only 300 yards away, stacking hay in a field when he saw an empty flatcar sail over the top of a boxcar and rip down a 7,200 volt power line. Sparks from the severed cable ignited propane

gas escaping from a tank car. In the news story, Matuga reported, “All at once everything blew up. Freight cars were flying through the air... sulphur and sulphur cars were flying everywhere.” When the first propane car exploded, Matuga said, “I just ran to escape and didn’t look back for at least a quarter of a mile.”

Damage from sulphur dioxide gas was estimated at \$2.5 million (1971 dollars) covering a “bleached and desolate” area 25 miles long and 3 miles wide.



Kamloops Family History Society

STORY IDEA AND RESEARCH AID COURTESY OF LINDLEY ROFF, PRESIDENT, KAMLOOPS FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY & JAIMIE FEDORAK, CURATOR, KAMLOOPS MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES
SOURCE: NORTH THOMPSON STAR JOURNAL MAY 23, 2013. PHOTO BY NEIL MACDONALD.

JULY

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

July Celebration Days:

Canada Day, Memorial Day (NL), Nunavut Day, Orangemen's Day (NL), Summer Olympics, Cousins Day, Great Upheaval Day

To-Do This Month:

This is the perfect month to do Canadian research—it's our nation's birthday!