

BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGY NEWS - ABOUT OUR MEMBERS - FOR OUR MEMBERS

June 1, 2020

Volume 5, Issue 6

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Bill Clayton, BCGS President president@bcgs.ca

Welcome to the "new normal". And whatever you're experiencing as your "new normal", many things at BCGS are going ahead as before, with a few twists.

It is unfortunate that access to the BCGS Genealogical Library has been curtailed, but it will open as soon as it is safe to do so. And our

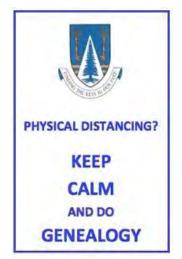
face-to-face Members' Meetings and Genealogy Chats will resume as soon as it is safe to do so.

But, in some ways, we have expanded our activities.

The Members' Meetings are on line via Zoom. Our May meeting was well attended from all over the province, with only a few less attendees than a typical meeting at the church. Genealogy Chats are also happening on line, with attendance from all parts of the province.

And when we do go back to 'regular' meetings at the Danish Church, we will be broadcasting our meetings live, via Zoom, for our members from everywhere to attend electronically.

Like the words of the song ... "the times they are a changin" ... for the better.



THE NEXT BCGS MEMBERS MEETING



will take place on WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10th Via ZOOM

See page 8 for details

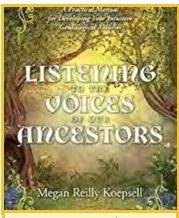
Our usual theme for the June meeting is the annual STRAWBERRY TEA event and BOOK AWARDS

Apologies for only being able to send 'virtual' strawberries to our members and we hope to be able to hold the Book Awards later in the year.

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Check our website www.bcgs.ca for more detail about our Society

Please share. Just click FORWARD from the email and send this to your friends. Thank you!

We'd love to hear from you! Please share your ongoing research, your personal searches, your exciting successes, your frustrating challenges, your research trip, your discoveries, how you broke down that brick wall, found a long lost relative, a story about an ancestor, or an interesting family story. If you have an idea about a story, feel free to talk to or email the newsletter editors at newsletter@bcgs.ca or the eJournal editor at journal@bcgs.ca. Your stories encourage others!





MESSAGE FROM THE BCGS eJOURNAL EDITOR

Lynne Fletcher, BCGS eJournal Editor



During these last months, my family, like many other families, has been spending most of our time at home. We're cooking meals from scratch, doing more cleaning and decluttering (well, a bit more . .) and spending lots of time in the garden. We have become accustomed to lining up at the grocery store and at the hardware store, and making do with another item when the one we were looking for (yeast!) is not on the shelf. Baking with restricted ingredients requires creative recipe alterations, similar to the inventive cookery that was required of our mothers and grandmothers during wartime rationing.



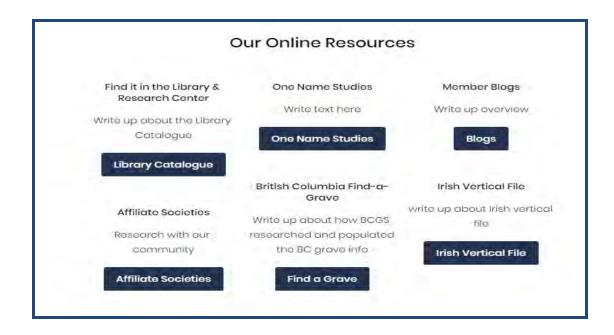
In your family, is there a tale of creative cookery, or a special treat that was almost made out of thin air? Perhaps you have heard stories of ingenious repairing of appliances, vehicles or work tools, items that could not be replaced. If you have found some of these, could you share with our Journal readers? Your story may not only bring back memories, it may also inspire some creative solutions for our present generation, while we cope with this Covid-19 virus.

Please send your story and pictures (recipes) to Journal@bcgs.ca

CALLING ALL MEMBERS with WEBSITES, BLOGS, and ONE NAME STUDIES

The BCGS website is being completely revamped and modernized. The website committee has been working hard on this project over the past year and we hope to launch the site in June.

There will be an "Online Resources" section, which will have a strong focus on BCGS members. We invite members to let Ann Buchanan ibbotsonab@gmail.com know if you have a website, blog, or one-name study that you would like to have linked to this site. Below is an example of what the Online Resources portal might look like.



PANDEMIC GENEALOGY STORIES

What are you doing while isolated?





BCGS members and genealogy cousins **Patrick Keily** and **Linda Maitland** don't let a little thing like an international border interfere with their socializing during the Covid-19 pandemic. The Keilys and the Maitlands had a lovely picnic at the Canada/US border in late May, practicing social distancing with each in their own country.

PANDEMIC STORIES and QUESTIONS from the BCGS 'ZOOM' MEMBERS' MEETING on MAY 13, 2020

Aidren Kayce, member #5576: Aidren asked about returning borrowed books from the BCGS Genealogical Library and was advised to enjoy the books and return them once the Library is allowed to re-open. And, because of the lockdown, she has looked more deeply through the internet to break down a brick wall and find a third great-grandfather. She felt it worked well to be stuck at home.

Meg McLaughlin, member #3847: Meg has twenty-four letters to transcribe from a journey her grandparents took to Australia. See Meg's article on page 24 for more of the story.

Susan Snalam, member #4403: Susan is planning a virtual family reunion for family members from all over the world. This is an opportunity for these far apart relations to meet. There are difficulties to overcome such as time zone differences between Canada and Australia.

George Caldwell, member #4955: George has extracted the obituaries of some 650 former members of the BCGS, primarily from on-line newspapers throughout BC. The obituaries date from 2002 to 2020. He has also extracted over 350 death registrations from the B.C. Archives for members who died prior to 1999. A huge research undertaking on behalf of the BCGS.

Rob Whitlock, member #5074: Rob recounted the adversities arising due to the cancellation of a genealogy based trip to Scotland in September. He also remarked that a special family monumental headstone, now covered in moss, will have to remain that way for the duration.

Judith Ueland, member #4913: Judith met a new friend online through FindAGrave and received enormous assistance in tracing a member of a large family who seemed to have disappeared. Not so, he simply moved between Canada and the United States, fought in the US Civil War and, having married twice and with records showing members of both families and children of the second wife, previous and second husbands of the wives, it was extremely confusing to determine he was the 'right' Henry Shreeve. The friend's help made all the difference and we even discovered we are - extremely - distantly related. A nice use of our 'locked in' time.

Send your stories to <u>newsletter@bcgs.ca</u> and we'll print them in the upcoming Newsletters. We have a 500 word limit with room for a picture or two or send us a picture or two with a caption.



BCGS POSTCARD COLLECTION



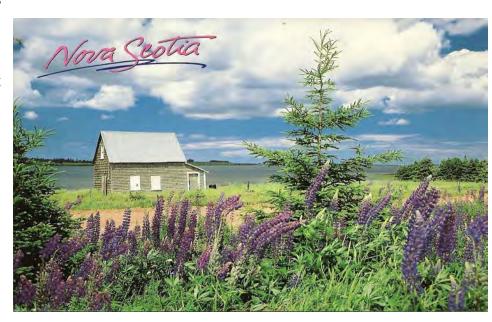
POSTCARDS OF THE MONTH

The Story Behind a Picture Postcard - June 2020 - IN MEMORIAM

Janice Kidwell, BCGS member #5033

June's postcard is in recognition of and to

pay tribute to those lives lost during the shooting rampage in Nova Scotia on April 18 and 19, 2020 that resulted in the death of 22 people, for the loss of six Armed Forces members that were lost April 29, 2020 in a helicopter crash off the coast of Greece during a NATO training exercise (three members were from Nova Scotia with the other three members being from Nanaimo, B.C., Guelph, Ontario and Trois-Rivieres, Quebec) and for the most recent loss of Halifax native Capt.



Jennifer (Jenn) Casey who lost her life in the May 17, 2020 crash of a Canadian Forces Snowbird plane in Kamloops.



Our Mother's Day postcard photo caught the attention of a BCGS Affiliate volunteer member, **Sharon Syrette**, of the Aboriginal Genealogy Association at https://www.facebook.com/aboriginal.ancestors/

Sharon requested permission to post the image on their website in honour of Mother's Day. Sharon also asked for information about the photo which prompted Janice to do some online research - Janice replied:

"Who donated this postcard to BCGS and how long it has been in the society's collection is unknown. I became the new postcard co-ordinator in January 2019. People do donate postcards but in my experience the donor's name is not written down except in a recent case where two very old postcard books filled with vintage cards were donated. There are probably around 1000 postcards in our care.

"I looked online to see if this particular postcard would come up and, although it didn't, there was a similar one in the sense of the 'linen look' that the postcard has. It was called Kwakiutl Indian Boy Mask and Killer Whale Design linen postcard by Jalaine 1950's. The

style is similar so the postcard of mother and child could have also been from the 1950's. On the back of the postcard online there was a clue to its origins as it said, "Distributed by Indian Arts and Crafts, Seattle and Anchorage". It did not say the same on the Mother and Child postcard but the design is the same and the Harman name (artist?) is on both.

"I have two Indigenous postcards of beautiful and colourful totem poles that are outside, one being in Alert Bay and also two postcards that are art pieces from the Coast Salish Spirit Dancer, Whatcom Museum of History and Art, Bellingham, Washington. I hope this helps. I always have this wish that I will go to a garage sale or a thrift store and find a big bag of amazing postcards!"

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS of the BCGS

We wish to welcome these new members to the BCGS. We're here to help you with your research, so please ask us any questions at all!





BCGS GIFT CERTIFICATE

Please note that the BCGS now has this wonderful **Gift Certificate** available for members who wish to gift a relative or friend with a BCGS membership.

If you would like to purchase a gift certificate, please contact Eunice Robinson at eunice@genbug.ca



YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES FREE ACCESS to the BCGS RESEARCH TEAM



Ann Buchanan, BCGS Research Co-ordinator

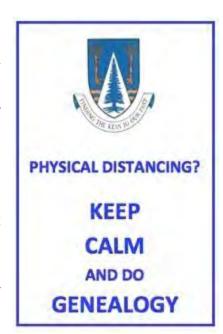
Ann tells us that despite the Covid-19 situation, the BCGS Research Team can still search the Clippings Index, Cemetery Recordings, Vancouver Sun Newspapers - 1999 to 2012 obituaries, and various other databases which BCGS has digitally produced.

If you are a member of the BCGS, email Ann with your queries

at queryrequest@bcgs.ca

Our BC Research volunteers will be happy to assist you in any way they can. There is no charge for this service. If your request is complicated and time consuming, BC Research may ask you for a small donation. A non-member is charged specific fees based on what they are asking.

The BCGS Genealogical Library has nearly 18,000 books, over 12,000 newspaper clippings, and many film, CD, and computerized databases. The library catalogue is still available online to help you prepare for your next visit to the library.





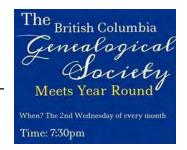




BCGS MEMBERS' MEETINGS

News about upcoming meetings as well as previous meetings

Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm They are currently taking place on line via Zoom



THE NEXT MEETING is scheduled for:

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10th

WEBINAR: Church of England Church Records

To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus,

the JUNE MEETING will be held via ZOOM

All BCGS members will receive an email with information on how to join in

ABOUT THE WEDNESDAY, JUNE 10TH BCGS MEMBERS' MEETING via ZOOM



- The May Zoom meeting was most successful, consequently a June meeting is in order.
- A BCGS invitation to the June meeting via Zoom will be sent to members via Mail Chimp, so watch your inbox for more details about the website address, meeting number and password. If you don't receive the email by June 10, please contact the editors of this Newsletter at newsletter@bcgs.ca
- Each member will need a 'free' Zoom account to participate.
- The meeting will follow the usual format for in-person meetings. There will be some time for a Q&A session.
- For the Education portion of the meeting, Celia Lewis will present a webinar on "Church of England Church Records". Handouts for this 29 minute webinar by FamilySearch.org are available but must be downloaded individually. Celia will explain the process.
- Celia will also take a few minutes for instruction on how to find and use the wonderful England Parish maps on FamilySearch.org by Raymon Naisbitt who has consolidated a one and a half hour presentation into under 30 minutes. It will remain available to rewatch, probably for some years.



- This second meeting via Zoom will build on the experience of the May meeting.



JULY & AUGUST 2020

All group meetings are cancelled for the foreseeable future.



We will resume when we are allowed by our medical professionals.

In the meantime, join us via Zoom (see above).

LOOKING BACK at the MAY MEETING

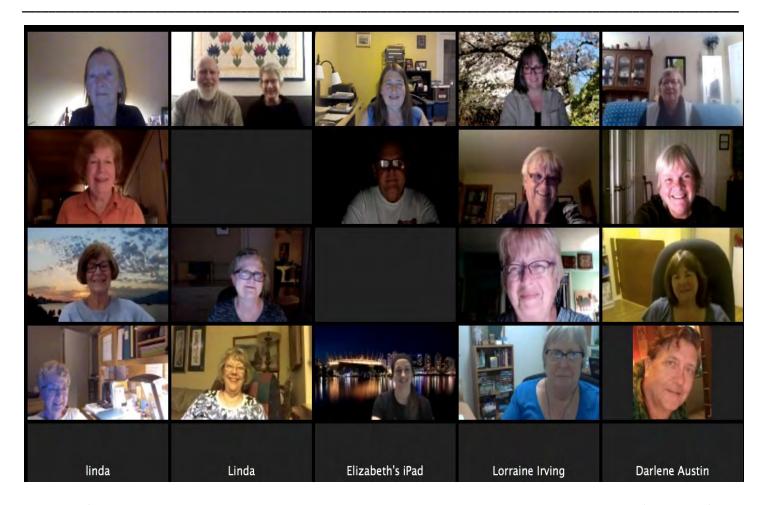
The first BCGS Members' Meeting via Zoom was held on Wednesday, May 13th, at our usual meeting time of 7:30. Over 55 members successfully logged in with members from near and far, including Alberta and the United States. One of our longtime members was able to attend her first ever meeting.

The beginnings of the meeting consisted of discussion and exploring the uses of the Zoom platform – including how to put one's hand up to speak (the yellow hand icon at the bottom of the screen). As most of us know one another, greetings were made as it is the first time many of us had seen one another due to the lock-down since March.

Following the usual procedures for the meeting the Minutes from the March Meeting were voted on and passed. The April meeting had, of course, been cancelled. A short report was given by our new President, Bill Clayton, and the current Board members were introduced.







A period of time was given to those who told us about their genealogical research activities during the 'stay home' time we are all experiencing. See our Pandemic Genealogy Stories on page 5 for those items.

During the latter part of the meeting, **Cathy Lawrence** made a point of saying how much she had appreciated the webinar suggestions by **Celia Lewis** in her monthly Newsletter column, "Genealogy Gems". This led to an enthusiastic thank you from the Newsletter co-editors, **Judith Ueland and Linda Maitland**, to our many contributors without whom our issues would be poorer indeed.

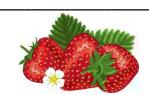
The meeting was concluded with suggestions for future meetings and screen shots were taken. Some of the members had signed off and a few were unable to activate or didn't have cameras on their computers so are unfortunately only shown as boxes. But even then, it was a pleasure to have them attend.

Christine Manzer, BCGS member and President of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada, joined the meeting in order to observe the process and was pleased to see how our experience could be used for future meetings of the Vancouver Branch of the United Empire Loyalists'.

In all, a resounding success and a good omen for future 'distance' meetings via Zoom.







BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

News about our library as well as the events that took place and will take place at the library



BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Unit 211, 12837 - 76th Avenue, Surrey, BC

Normally Open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Closed until further notice.

To HELP LIMIT the SPREAD of COVID-19, the BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY is CLOSED until FURTHER NOTICE

NEWS from the LIBRARY STACKS



Corrine Jubb, Library Administrator

As we research our ancestors, we might forget about ourselves. We may have written down the basic information such as when we were born but have we written about our own lives?

Biographies can be written by professionals, but most of us will record our own personal histories. Some genealogy software packages have options to help write a person's story and to use facts and photos we have added into our genealogy software.

Here are some sites and companies with hints on writing your (and other's) biography:

The Armchair Genealogist by Lynn Palermo at https://www.thearmchairgenealogist.com/ Family Search hints at https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Write_a_Personal_History Roots Magic writing software at https://www.rootsmagic.com/Personal-Historian/

Don't forget to include your sources. **Elizabeth Shown Mills** is known for her work on citing sources. https://www.evidenceexplained.com/ Her book is available at the BCGS Genealogical Library – 929 MIL – " **Evidence Explained, Citing History Sources from Artifacts to Cyberspace**"

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY has AFFILIATE LIBRARY STATUS with FamilySearch.org

Images Available To view these images you must do one of the following: • Access the site at a family history center • Access the site at a FamilySearch affiliate library

When you are using FamilySearch.org and you see the image on the left, remember that the BCGS Genealogical Library has Affiliate Library status with FamilySearch.org. This means that while using FamilySearch.org at the BCGS Genealogical Library, you will be able to view many of the digital images of documents that are locked to home users.



When this is all over, we are all throwing the biggest St. Patrick's - Easter - Passover - Vaisakhi - Earth Day - Ramadan - Mother's Day - Victoria Day - Father's Day - Canada Day - August Long - Labour Day - Thanksgiving party that anyone has ever seen!





GENEALOGY GEMS & ODDITIES in our BCGS Genealogical Library

Celia Lewis, Member #5183, BCGS Webinar Coordinator

R 942.25 Eastern SUSSEX SETTLEMENT CERTIFICATES 1670-1832
BUR edited by M. J. Burchall; Sussex Genealogical Centre

Note the "R" in front of the Dewey Decimal number - indicating this little booklet is on Reserve only. But if YOU have any ancestors living

in the eastern Sussex parishes in this time period, you're in luck. You might find your ancestors here - or clues to follow up on.

The myth that most people did not migrate out of their parishes, remaining for generations, has been thoroughly put to bed. As stated, "the appearance and

Eastern Sussex
Settlement Certificates
1670-1832

edited by M J Burchall

disappearance of a name... would indicate a great deal of movement."[p.i] This small book is organized by parishes alphabetically, then the names of the heads of household by certificate date, with wives and children, sometimes with an approximate age of the children. For each parish, it gives the date the certificate was enacted, and the parish the individuals left. In any one year, you can see how many settlement certificates were made.

This small book has several indexes at the back: *Index Nominum* [names], *Index Locorum* [place], and a short listing of *Occupations* - ranging from Alehouse-keeper to Lathmaker to Writing master and Yeoman. Not all listings of Settlement Certificates provided the occupation of the incoming family however, so these Occupation listings provide some social context, but not much detail.

Below is a brief example from the *Parish Church of St Michael, in Lewes, Sussex*. There are 72 certificates for this particular Parish church; others' number much higher or lower. All are dated.

LEW	ES ST MICHAEL 1670-1794	PAR 414/32/1	1-77
1	William BUNCE, his bond to save the parish		
	harmless	no date 1670	
2	John GILHAM junior	20 Feb 1699	St Thos South- wark, Surrey
2	Joseph BLABER and his wife	6 Oct 1699	Lewes St John
14	Henry OWDEN, and his family	30 Sep 1700	Southover
5	Robert BENTLETT, w Elizth	8 Nov 1701	Burton
6	William RICHARDSON, carpenter	14 Jan 1704	Willingdon
7	Thomas GROVER, his wife and children	9 Apr 1705	Glynde
8	Mercy HOULTER, widow	29 Aug 1705	Southover
9	Samuel PARSONS, and his family	1 Jul 1706	
10	Robert BOSTON, w Elizth & 3 children	5 Jul 1706	Lewes All Saints
11	James OWDEN, w Elizth; Martha	18 Jul 1706	Lewes St Anne
12	Benjamin CONLEY, his wife & 6 children	28 May 1707	St John Wapping, Middx
13	William HENTY, w Elizth; Samuel & William	8 Oct 1707	Southover
14	Richard HAMBLEDEANE, weaver, w Joane and his children	18 May 1708	Brighton

So we see that No. 2, John GILHAM junior came from St. Thos in Southward, Surrey, giving us a clue that he may have been born or married in St Thos. No. 12, Benjamin CONLEY, settled with his wife and 6 children, coming from St John in Wapping, Middlesex. No. 14, Richard HAMBLEDEANE, occupation weaver, came with his wife Joane and his children, from Brighton. Small breadcrumbs of clues abound in this little gem!

I found this little book full of fascinating details,

and only wish my ancestors had come from this area. Note that almost all the parish records supporting this booklet details were deposited in the East Sussex Record Office, Pelham House, St Andrew's Lane, Lewes, East Sussex. Only 5 parishes [footnote 14, p.ii] were not able to be included in the book. They're listed so that if one's ancestors did come from one of those 5, one would not be wasting time trying to find them in the book. There was no explanation as to why they were not included. Lost? destroyed? Unable to be transcribed because of mold/mice? No idea.

This booklet is another easily-overlooked area that could be a perfect resource for some people... in the same group of oddities as Hearth Taxes, Muster Rolls, Settlement Certificates, and more. They seem so very specific, and they are, but they give a specific place/time/names, which is what we all want for accurate research. Treasures for some, frustrating for others.

BCGS GENEALOGY CHATS - MANY ARE NOW TAKING PLACE via ZOOM*

Coffee Chats at the **BCGS Genealogical Library**

When the Covid-19 lockdown is over, come by the library for a chat about your research or advice on where to begin. Bring a coffee mug, a friend, your favourite resources or just bring yourself. \$2 drop-in fee. Spend the day and browse our wonderful resources.

QUEBEC QUESTERS CHAT

2nd Saturday of each month June 13 & July 11 via Zoom* 10 am to noon



With Linda Maitland lindamaitland@telus.net

EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY

2nd Saturday of each month, 1 to 3 pm

Next chat TBA

With Sharon Clayton

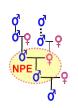
Please pre-register sharonimclayton@gmail.com

EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY Parental Puzzles (NPE)

3rd Monday of most months, 1 to 3 pm Next chat TBA

With Sharon Clayton

sharonimclayton@gmail.com



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY Advanced DNA Research Tools

4th Monday of most months, 1 to 3 pm

Next chat TBA

With Sharon Clayton

Please pre-register sharonjmclayton@gmail.com

BC GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA With Janet White jwhite@telus.net



MAC/REUNION GROUP

3rd Wednesday of most months, 2 to 4 pm Next chat TBA

With Bill Clayton

weclayton45@gmail.com



SOFTWARE for GENEALOGY

Next chat TBA With Angus Glass

liliardsedge@aol.com



SCOTLAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Tuesday, June 16 via Zoom* 7 to 9 pm

With Lorriane Irving & Eunice Robinson

lorraine.irving42@gmail.com



ENGLAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Saturday, June 20 via Zoom* 10 to noon

With Rob Whitlock

robw.whitlock@gmail.com



IRELAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursday, June 18 via Zoom*

7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson & Lorriane Irving

eunice@genbug.ca



ATLANTIC GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA

With Keith MacNutt

jkeithmacnutt@gmail.com



ONTARIO GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA With Janet White

jwhite@telus.net



*Via Zoom - email the facilitator and you will be sent an invitation to join the meeting via Zoom.



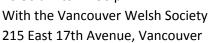


BCGS Special Interest Groups

These are BCGS genealogy groups that meet elsewhere

WELSH GROUP

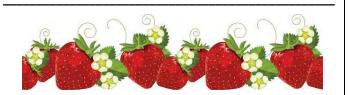
3rd Wednesday of most months 10:30 am to 12:30 pm



(Downstairs, enter from the back of the building)

csmythe@telus.net

Postponed until further notice



NEW CHAT via ZOOM*

CHINESE GENEALOGY 101 CHAT 1st Thursday of each month, 10 - 11 am Thursday, June 4 & July 9

With Linda Yip, BCGS member and Ancestry Advisory Board of Canadian Genealogists

Are you new to Chinese genealogy and don't know where to start? Or have you been doing your family genealogy for a while and are stuck?



Come join BCGS member Linda Yip as we talk about Chinese genealogy

issues, brick wall busters and the hidden gems of Chinese genealogical research. Bring your questions.

*Via Zoom - email Linda Yip at hello@past-presence.com and you will be sent an invitation to join the meeting via Zoom.

BCGS NEWS

News about new members, positions, committees and contests within the Society

BCGS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are lots of volunteer opportunities within the BCGS. Many hands make light work and ALL help is appreciated! To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the BCGS Genealogical Library is closed until further notice; however, these projects can easily be done at home. Here are some of them.

DIGITIZING NEWSPAPERS - BC RESEARCH - Work can easily be done at home. A few more people to help with the digitization of BC newspapers would make this project go much faster. If you'd like to help, please contact Ann Buchanan at ibbotsonab@gmail.com

HOLTEN NETHERLANDS CEMETERY PROJECT – Work can easily be done at home. Are you looking for a new research project to do from home? The Holten Netherlands Cemetery Project can use your help. Please join us! Our goal is to research each of the 81 British Columbia WWII soldiers who are buried in the Holten Cemetery in the Netherlands. What we discover will assist the Holten Canadian Cemetery Information Center fill their upcoming online database with information that will be accessible to anyone researching the soldiers in the future. If you are interested, please email

Melissa Borgerson at melissa_n_cecil@hotmail.com and we will get you the name of a soldier and the info you need to get started.

INDEXING NEWSPAPERS - Work can easily be done at home. We have been indexing the newspaper clippings of birth, marriage, death and other life events for many years and we have recently started to digitise these clippings and match them to the index that has already been done. Bob Buchanan has digitised at least seven years of the Vancouver Sun and now an index is needed. The index is done on Google Sheets or on Excel spreadsheets. If you are interested, please contact Ann Buchanan queryrequest@bcgs.ca.





Keep an eye on our Facebook pages during the Covid-19 pandemic. We're posting genealogical links to help with research while you're physical distancing, self-isolating or in quarantine.

British Columbia Genealogical Society - information about the BCGS as well as announcements for upcoming events and genealogical items of interest are posted in this account. Open to non-BCGS members too. You can join here: https://www.facebook.com/bcgenealogy/

BCGS Genealogical Discussion Group - for genealogical collaboration and discussion. You can easily communicate with all members of the group, post your research questions, share a brick wall, a genealogical success, and other members of the group can reply or comment. Others can help you and you can help others. Open to non-BCGS members too. You can join here: https://www.facebook.com/groups/bcgsdiscussion

BCGS 2020 CALENDAR - JUNE 2020

STEWART FARMHOUSE - SURREY, BC - Stewart Historic Farm

Image: courtesy: City of Surrey Archives. Photo construction: George Caldwell, written commentary: Sharon Clayton



In 1894, Scottish-born John Stewart and his wife Annie built their new farmhouse on 160 acres of land beside Surrey's Mud Bay. The finely crafted verandah was designed to provide shade outside and maximize the home's inside light. The farm's outbuildings included a chicken coop, a pigpen, a dairy, an outhouse and a grain grindery. In 1897, the family purchased an additional 440 acres to build two hay barns on the north side of the Nicomekl River.

Surrey Municipal Council purchased the property in 1984. The Historic Stewart Farm site now includes eight buildings: the farmhouse, Stewart Hall, a pole barn, a bunkhouse, a machine shed, a woodshed, a root cellar and a garage. Until their new home was completed, the family lived in a small house that was located approximately where the garage is now.

A NOTE from the BCGS BOARD of DIRECTORS: The following promotion is being offered to BCGS members who have signed up for the 2021 BCGS Alaska cruise. At this time, with the current pandemic, it is impossible to speculate on where the world will be in 2021. The organizing committee is hopeful that the cruise will proceed as scheduled or possibly be postponed past the point when a vaccine is available.



Holland America Time Sensitive Offers

GENEALOGY CRUISE WITH BLAINE BETTINGER & MARY KATHERYN KOZY ENDING MAY 31, 2020 EXTENDED TO JUNE 30, 2020!

1

RECEIVE A

\$250 USD

On-Board Spending Credit
Per Cabin for \$750 USD installment
payment** made by June 30, 2020

RECEIVE A

\$50 USD

On-Board Spending Credit

Per Cabin for \$250 USD installment payment** made by June 30, 2020

2 RECEIVE A

\$125 USD

On-Board Spending Credit
Per Cabin for \$500 USD installment
payment** made by June 30, 2020

10% Discount*
PLUS \$250 USD

On-Board Spending Credit Per Cabin for Full Prepayment[†] made by June 30, 2020

Until June 14 2021, all pre-paid booking fees are fully refundable.

How could we use these on-board credits?

Each HAL Internet/Wifi package plan has a one-time \$3.95 usp activation fee + 250 minutes \$100 usp • 100 minutes \$55 usp. Pay as you go plan 75¢ usp per minute. On-Board Spending Credit is also good for our exclusive onboard restaurants!

QUESTIONS?

Call Robert Marcoux at 604.401.0484 or toll-free at 1.866.354.1869 or email robert@getawaywithcompass.ca

^{**}Early installment payments MUST be applied to cruise fare balances. This offer is limited to ONE onboard credit per cabin, regardless of the number of installment payments and/or the value of each installment payment. \$250 USD is the maximum allowable onboard credit.

^{*10%} discount applies to the gross cruise-only base fare per cabin (not per person). It does not apply to taxes, expenses, or port fees. †Full payment means full balance of bookings, including (without limitation): Air Fares, Excursions, Transfers, and Hotels.

OBITUARIES

Remembering those who have left us recently and, over the years, were dedicated to the pursuit of genealogy



ROBIN GRESKO

1947 - 2020

Robin Gresko, beloved son, brother, husband, father, grandfather, uncle, teacher and friend passed away unexpectedly at the Royal Columbian Hospital ICU on April 10, 2020 at the age of 72. He is survived by his wife Jacqueline, daughter Genevieve (Brad), son Brian (Misty), grandchildren Holly, Madeleine and Charlotte, sister Connie (Glen), and nieces and nephews. Rob was raised in New Westminster. He did a Science degree at the University of B.C. then taught for thirty-five years in Richmond. Colleagues and students remember his support for extracurricular activities and his organization of a school recycling program. He married Jacqueline Kennedy in 1970. They made their home and raised their children in Richmond. After retirement, they moved to Surrey.

In retirement, Rob had more time to do volunteer work and to accompany his wife to meetings of historical societies, including the B.C. Genealogical Society. Rob was interested in finding out about his paternal ancestors who came from the Ukraine and his maternal ancestors who homesteaded in Saskatchewan. He volunteered to drive Jacqueline and BCGS friends to meetings, conferences and cemeteries across the province. Over the years, he chauffeured Maureen Hyde, Alice Marwood, Diane Rogers, Lorraine Irving, Brenda Smith, and Erica Williams.

One of my favourite memories was of how these ladies told us about a book sale at the Vancouver Public Library. Rob drove me there and then warned me not to buy a bunch more books. So I carefully chose only one small vintage pamphlet on the Anglican Church in Vancouver. Rob circled the tables and came back grinning with a large book, an historical atlas of the Ukraine. It had a map that showed the location of his grandparents' home village.

Now we can imagine Rob up in heaven driving Maureen and Alice to check out more book sales and meetings and cemeteries.

We thank the staff of the Royal Columbian Hospital ICU for the care they gave Rob in the last weeks of his life. We will have a memorial service and celebration of Rob's life when conditions permit. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Royal Columbian Hospital Foundation at www.rchfoundation.com/robingresko.

A full family history obituary is available in the Vancouver/Sun Obituary section at https://vancouversunandprovince.remembering.ca/obituary/robin-gresko-1079194895

Jacqueline Gresko, BCGS member #4927





Learn more or celebrate your Loyalist ancestor(s) with involvement in the UELAC VANCOUVER BRANCH Tentative plans for BC Loyalist Day 2020

Still to be confirmed by the City of New Westminster, our annual Loyalist Day picnic is booked for 1 pm Sunday, July 19, 2020 at picnic shelter #2 in Queens Park. It is always a "Bring Your Own Lunch" event and members from Chilliwack often drive in from the Valley to join the fun. Guests are always welcome.

Keep the date, but know that the Vancouver Executive will abide by the BC Health Authority directives and that the event may be cancelled.

Why is Loyalist Day in July?

Sunday 22 July was proclaimed as BC Loyalist Day in 2012 by then Hon. Lt. Gov. Stephen Point. The four Pacific Regional Branches of the UELAC will continue to celebrate BC Loyalist Day, on the closest Sunday to the 22nd July.







To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Surrey Libraries, FamilySearch FHC, Vancouver Public Libraries and all other BC libraries are closed until further notice.







A note from Vancouver Public Library

Ancestry Library Edition

New! VPL cardholders can now enjoy access to Ancestry Library Edition from home for free until the end of **JUNE 30, 2020**. A popular database for genealogical research, it includes census, baptism, marriage and military records. Visit our genealogy guide for more research help. https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/ancestry-library-edition



An email from Surrey Libraries Family History

Hello everyone! Just popping in to give you a quick update from us here at Surrey Libraries Family History:

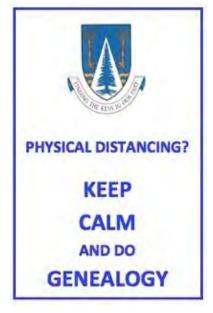


- Free access for you from home to our library Ancestry
 account has again been kindly extended to June 30, 2020, courtesy of
 ProQuest and its partner Ancestry. Remember that you need to be (a) a
 resident of Surrey; (b) have a Surrey Libraries card, and (c) you need to
 access through the Ancestry login link on our Family History webpage here:
 https://www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history
- Sadly, there is no news yet on a re-opening date or even the resumption of our Family History email reference / look-up service. We are REALLY looking forward to being back to work but still don't know when that will be.

Updates to the above will be posted on our Family History webpage https://www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history.

Wishing you much success in your research, and good health!

Regards, Carmen Merrells | Information Services Librarian SURREY LIBRARIES, Cloverdale Branch, Family History Department



Museum of Surrey launches online exhibit - Cloverdale museum encourages people to discover their family history Snipped from SurreyNowLeader.com's article by Malin Jordan, 11 May 2020

https://www.surreynowleader.com/entertainment/museum-of-surrey-launches-online-exhibit/

The Museum of Surrey is encouraging people to research their roots.

While many self-isolate and social-distance in their homes, the museum recently launched a new online exhibit called *Discover Your Story: We Can Help!* The new digital exhibit is part of the institution's "Museum From Home" initiative. *Discover Your Story: We Can Help!* aims to inspire Surreyites to discover their roots and create their own family trees.

New Coquitlam Archives online exhibit celebrates nurses

Snipped from tricitynews.com's article by Gary McKenna, 14 May 2020

https://www.tricitynews.com/news/new-coquitlam-archives-online-exhibit-celebrates-nurses-1.24135051

Titled *An Emerging Profession: Psychiatric Nursing at Essondale, 1913-1973*, the exhibit has information, documents and archive photographs from the School of Psychiatric Nursing once located on today's Riverview Hospital grounds. The presentation is in honour of International Nurses Day and the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth, which are both held on May 12.

British Columbia Ancestors: Historical BC Government Gazette Online

Snipped from Candice McDonald's blog, Finding Your Canadian Story, 18 May 2020

https://findingyourcanadianstory.blogspot.com/2020/05/british-columbia-ancestors-historical.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FindingYourCanadianStory+%28Finding+Your+Canadian+Story%29

Government Gazettes are a great resource. During the early years of Canada, these publications gave information on many aspects of the lives of our ancestors. They had notices of divorces, bankruptcies, and business dealings, just to name a few. I've written before on the Canada Gazette, the publication of the federal government. But provincial governments publish their own versions. I've found 3 online sources for free digitizations.

GENEALOGY NEWS in CANADA

Upcoming events and new genealogical resources in Canada



VIDEO: YouTube: Family Secrets Revealed in Free Archival Canadian Newspapers Online: Provincial Initiatives by John D. Reid on Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections.

https://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2020/04/youtube-family-secrets-revealed-in-free.html

NEW: MyHeritage Canadian Newspapers

Snipped from John Reid's blog, Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections, 9 May 2020

https://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2020/05/new-myheritage-canadian-newspapers.html

Within a day of posting my last YouTube newspaper video, I discovered something new. My Heritage has added Canadian newspapers to the collection, and they're full text searchable.

Alberta Ancestors: Digital Directories on Canadiana

Snipped from Candice McDonald's blog, Finding Your Canadian Story, 9 May 2020

https://findingyourcanadianstory.blogspot.com/2020/05/alberta-ancestors-digital-directories.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FindingYourCanadianStory+%28Finding+Your+Canadian+Story%29

I can't stress enough how important it is to have Canadiana bookmarked on your internet browser. This fantastic free resource has a massive amount of digitized material relating to Canada.





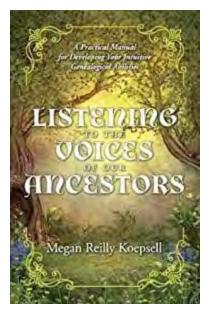


DNA GENEALOGY NEWS

Some web links to help with genetic genealogy research

Some web links to help with genetic genealogy research

Listening To the Voices of Our Ancestors by Megan Reilly Koepsell Book Review by Sharon Clayton - Member 5332



In her introduction. Megan says, "I want to help people like you to become aware ancestors who want to be found." I did not need much convincing - Megan's of collection synchronicity stories are similar to the "woo woo" experiences my genealogy friends and I sometimes share.

When Megan attended Salt Lake City's 2012 RootsTech genealogy conference, she heard other genealogists speaking publicly about the guidance they had received from their ancestors, and she was introduced to two validating books: Henry Z. Jones' *Psychic Roots: Serendipity and Intuition in Genealogy* and Megan Smolenyak's *In Search of Our Ancestors: 101: Inspiring Stories of Serendipity and Connections in Rediscovering Our Family History.* That's when Megan realized that experiences she thought were "unusual" were common among her fellow genealogists.

Right after I finished the book, I phoned Megan to tell her that I often solve genealogy brainteasers when I'm warm and wet in the shower. Megan was laughing when she said, "Once, I went to a metaphysical fair and my dad came through. The medium said, 'Your dad wants to let you know that what he's about to say is not meant in a creepy way, but when you think about your ancestors, they draw near. He says you think about them the whole time you're showering, so if you want a little privacy, think about them at another time.' I still find myself thinking about them while I shower, so I ask them to give me privacy so I can keep trying to solve their puzzles."

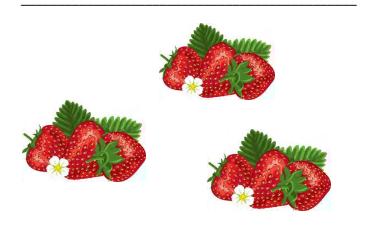


Writing about our "ancestral helpers", Megan says, "Occasionally, there will be times when, for no apparent reason, we might feel as if we 'just know' certain information. Whether in genealogy or in everyday life, this inner knowing isn't easy to explain, but often proves to be true. These feelings of inner knowing should be honored, acknowledged, and explored."

Megan and I share only a tiny amount of DNA - less than 20 centimorgans. Her uncle, siblings and a first cousin all share gene segments with me too, but each segment is less than 7 cMs, genetic genealogy's "false positive" threshold.

Megan's GG Grandmother Jeanette P. (Janet) MacLean McGregor was born on the Isle of Tiree in 1842. My 5th Great Grandmother Janet MacLean was born there about 1759. Our DNA research shows that several common DNA cousins descend from one of my Janet MacLean's nine children. Many of our common gene segments appear at the same locations on the same chromosomes, so we *know* those stacking segments were passed down from our MacLean ancestors with Tiree genes. With several determined DNA cousins collaborating to fill in the intervening generations, the missing puzzle pieces will eventually appear.

A copy of Megan's book was donated to our BCGS Genealogical Library, using "Toonies" collected during **Exploring Genetic Genealogy** Special Interest Groups. Megan was pleased to learn that her new book is sitting on our library's shelf, right between *Psychic Roots* and *In Search of Our Ancestors*.



DNA GENEALOGY NEWS, cont'd

Four Quick Tips to Make Your Mitochondrial DNA Results More Useful

Snipped from Roberta Estes' blog, DNAeXplained -- Genetic Genealogy, 7 May 2020

https://dna-explained.com/2020/05/07/four-quick-tips-to-make-your-mitochondrial-dna-results-more-useful/

It's a misperception that mitochondrial DNA is more difficult to use than autosomal DNA. Surnames do change with every generation in your mitochondrial lineage, but they change in autosomal for women too.

Concepts: Chromosome Browser – What Is It, How Do I Use It, and Why Do I Care?

Snipped from Roberta Estes' blog, DNAeXplained -- Genetic Genealogy, 21 April 2020

https://dna-explained.com/2020/04/21/concepts-chromosome-browser-what-is-it-how-do-i-use-it-and-why-do-i-care/

The goal of genetic genealogy is to utilize DNA matches to verify known ancestors and identify unknown ancestors. A chromosome browser is a tool that allows testers to visualize and compare their DNA on each chromosome with that of their genetic matches. How to utilize and interpret that information becomes a little more tricky.

Combine DNA Tools to Calculate Unknown Relationships

Snipped from DiAnn Iamarini's blog, Fortify Your Family Tree, 28 April 2020

https://family-tree-advice.blogspot.com/2020/04/dna-tools.html

The GEDmatch website has lots of intriguing tools for you to try. First you need to upload the raw DNA file you downloaded from your DNA testing site.

GENEALOGY SEMINARS & MEETINGS NEAR & FAR

Genealogical seminars and meetings in BC and environs as well as elsewhere in North America and Europe

Virtual British Institute 2020 - Ireland, Wales, England

Snipped from Chris Paton's blog, Scottish Genes, 19 May 2020

http://feedproxy.google.com/~r/ScottishGenes/~3/ZsQ16T1_eCk/virtual-british-institute-2020-ireland.html?utm_source =feedburner&utm_medium=email

I was very much looking forward to returning to Salt Lake City this coming October, for the first time since 1999, but a nasty wee bug got in the way of all that. You can't keep a good team down, however, so I'm delighted to share the news that this year's British Institute (www.isbgfh.com/BRITISH-INSTITUTE) from the International Society for British Genealogy and Family History (www.isbgfh.com) has re-emerged as a new online venture in October, by way of a three day event featuring myself, Paul Milner and Darris Williams, covering genealogical topics from Ireland, Wales and England.



WEBINARS

Genealogical webinars that may be of interest to our members

Ontario Ancestors opens its webinar library

Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 19 May 2020

https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=31983

Ontario Ancestors has unlocked its webinar library to make many of the online presentations delivered during the past five years accessible for free until August 31.











MEMBERS' CORNER

In this section of the newsletter, we feature stories from our readers.



Patrick Keily, member #5414

As I Recollect - The Law of Imaginary Lines

Around 1895, my great grandmother Kate Cassin Keily planted a lilac bush outside her house in Valcartier,

Quebec. It was tended to by Kate until her death in 1931 and probably ignored by her two sons who still lived there. I don't know anything more about it until I saw it in 2001, my first visit to Quebec. The bush somehow survived the years, including a fire that consumed the house in 1970. It was immense, at least 20 feet tall and 8-10 across at its widest. I knew I had to take root cuttings from it for my family.

At customs in the Boston airport, I explained what they were, hoping for a happy outcome. The agent said he wasn't sure if it was allowed, said he would check on it and then turned a blind eye and let me go. Unfortunately, none of the roots survived more than a few weeks.

Three years later, I drove to Valcartier, visited the old homestead, and returned with several more cuttings. At the border crossing in Sault Ste Marie, Michigan, I "forgot" I had them with, and I was whisked through



and headed back home to Wisconsin. This time they grew. I sent a few to family and planted the rest in our yard. When moved Washington State in 2013, we brought three bushes with. One died the first vear. the second died last year, leaving only (left). My son and daughter in law have

the best surviving bush, which is in Duluth, Minnesota (right).

Linda Maitland's is family from Shannon, Quebec, a stone's throw from Valcartier. When she learned of the lilac bush, she asked if it was possible for her to get a root for her garden in South Surrey. I didn't think it would be much of



a hassle, so I called Canadian Customs, explained the situation, and fully expected a quick approval. Well...... the agent didn't have an answer and referred me to his boss. Two days later, I got through, only to be told he wasn't sure. He said I needed to speak with someone in Calgary, and gave me a phone number. I did get through, again on the second day of trying. After explaining the situation, a very pleasant lady said she didn't know and, worse yet, she didn't know who to ask. She took my email address and I never heard from her again.

So, what does one do? I understand the need for precaution, and I know laws are written to broadly cover situations, but a plant living a mile from the border hardly seems like a threat to a country. Yet, the law is the law. I still wonder if Canadian officials, just like the customs agent in Boston, aren't looking the other way. Forgiveness vs permission? I'd rather have permission.

Sadly, upon revisiting the Keily farm in Valcartier in 2011, I found the original lilac was removed by new owners of the property. I'm glad the lilac offspring live on, but it pains my heart to have something of such beauty and family history fall before the shovel of progress. The past is gone, long live the past.



Meg McLaughlin, member #3847 Living Through History

What sparks inspiration? Sometimes I sit for hours in front of the computer thinking of one idea and then another. Could I write about this? No, too

much like last month's article. What about that? But I don't have pictures for that subject. If nothing comes to me while at the computer, often times the best thing for me to do is go for a walk. I guess you could say the inspiration for this month's article came courtesy of the Coquitlam River Trail.



Fresh air and а steady pace made my thoughts flow and connections come together to form story. ľm still working on my Australian family links.

That means working my way through my grandmother's letters and my grandad's travel diary from their 1955 trip. Her letters are much less cryptic than his diary and I'm finding out a lot about their trip and about her daughter's (my mother's) life shortly after my family moved to Canada. Pulling the information from the letters is a slow but enjoyable process.

In the most recently read letter, my gran was upset at being kicked out of their hotel in Adelaide. Turns out that there was an important cricket match being held in the city while they were there, a test match between Australia and England. London newspaper correspondents had taken over the hotel rooms. My gran didn't take the eviction well but my grandad went on the hunt for a ticket to the match. I was able to find a Wikipedia article about all the cricket test matches for

that time. It was great to be able to plug what I was reading in personal letters into known history.

It's great to find that kind of historical corroboration. I just wish I had letters or a diary for the other historical events that my grandparents lived through. Their lives encompassed WWI, WWII and the flu pandemic; times that a lot has been written about but I don't know much about what they personally went through. In fact, when I researched the 1918 flu for PoCo Heritage's latest museum exhibit, I could find general histories but have yet to come across any personal reminisces about what regular people endured.

Perhaps that's why many museums are asking the public to write to them about their experiences during the current pandemic. They want to capture the personal experiences for future generations as we are currently living through history. Not that other events we live through can't be a part of history but this is such a global event; something that will become a marker in memory as we talk about what happened before and after.

I really should write up my own experiences for PoCo Heritage. Maybe now the rain has stopped, it's time to take a walk and see if inspiration strikes.



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

****** MARK YOUR CALENDAR ****** **BCGS EVENTS**

To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, many BCGS events are POSTPONED until further notice.

June 4	Chinese Genealogy 101 - via Zoom - 10 to 11 am
June 10	BCGS Members Meeting - via Zoom - 7:30 pm
June 13	Quebec Questers Chat - via Zoom - 10 am to noon
June 16	Scotland Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
June 18	Ireland Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
June 20	England Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 to noon
July 2	Chinese Genealogy 101 - via Zoom - 10 to 11 am
July 8	BCGS Members Meeting - via Zoom - 7:30 pm
July 11	Quebec Questers Chat - via Zoom - 10 am to noon



Suggestions and comments are welcome. Please contact Judith Ueland and Linda Maitland at newsletter@bcgs.ca

To unsubscribe - please email the editors at the above address.

BCGS NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS



Judith Ueland Vice-President



Linda Maitland Director (2023)

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY Open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 - 3 pm (Closed during Covid-19 pandemic) 12837 76 Avenue, Unit 211 Surrey, BC

BCGS MAILING ADDRESS British Columbia Genealogical Society PO Box 88054 Lansdowne Mall Richmond, BC V6X 3T6

604-502-9119

Unless otherwise noted, all photos are by Judith Ueland, Linda Maitland or Rob Whitlock.

Members' Corner photos have been submitted by the writer.

Photographs taken at Members' Meetings and events by our BCGS photographers, as a record of the meetings, may appear in BCGS publications. Those who do not want their photos to appear in our publications can let the photographer know.

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Please feel free to pass this Newsletter on to your friends and family.