



BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGY NEWS - ABOUT OUR MEMBERS - FOR OUR MEMBERS

January 4, 2021

Volume 6, Issue 1

NEW YEAR'S 2021 MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bill Clayton, BCGS President, president@bcgs.ca

2020 delivered an over-abundance of “interesting times”. My wish for 2021 is for the opposite: easy-going, predictable, enjoyable months that are full of learning.

Our BCGS 2021 educational programs will begin again on Monday, January 4th. “**Genealogy – the Next Step**”, co-facilitated by Celia Lewis and Eunice Robinson, is already oversubscribed for Monday evenings from January 4th until February 1st. A wait list is being created for the next workshop series. To express interest, email education@bcgs.ca.

In 2020, we successfully adapted from in-person meetings to **virtual meetings**. Having our monthly Members’ Meetings on Zoom has dramatically increased our attendance numbers during the last half of the year and we expect that trend to continue, even after it’s safe for us to meet again in person.

Our **Annual General Meeting** in March will also be via Zoom. This will bring new challenges, especially with respect to voting. Only members who have paid their 2021 dues will take part in the voting process. Explanations of how the balloting and voting will work will be published in the February Newsletter.

In spite of the BCGS library being closed more than it was open during 2020, members have continued to donate bottles and cans for our **Recycling Fundraising project**. \$748.15 was collected in the past year. The recycling funds have been and will continue to be used for repairs and enhancements to our genealogy library.

The next few months will bring us closer to the light at the end of a dark tunnel. Until we get there, we need to keep washing our hands, wearing our masks and staying safe distances from one another.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US!

1971 to 2021 - 50 YEARS

We will be marking our 50th anniversary with some special events. Rather than a physical one day seminar, we will be holding several online sessions with noted speakers such as Dave Obee, Janice Nickerson and Lucille Campey. More information will be forthcoming.

Happy New Year



IN THIS ISSUE



BCGS MEMBERS' JANUARY 13th. MEETING
Where Should I Put My Family History?
Page 10



POSTCARD OF THE MONTH
Hope-Princeton Highway Slide
Page 8



MEMBERS CORNER
Addendum to
Who Mentored You?
Page 28

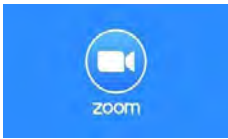
BCGS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Bill Clayton	p. 1
HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY to the BCGS	p. 1
IN THIS ISSUE - Index	p. 2
BCGS MEMBERS' JANUARY MEETING via ZOOM	p. 3
BCGS EDUCATION - Online Classes - FULL - Jan & Feb 2021	p. 3
BCGS 2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL CAMPAIGN	p. 3
BCGS DECEMBER POSTER - June Gauntley - Peace Arch	p. 4
MESSAGE from the BCGS WEBSITE TEAM	p. 5
MESSAGE from the BCGS eJOURNAL EDITOR - Lynne Fletcher	p. 6
NOTICE of CALL for NOMINATIONS & the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)	p. 6
MEMBERSHIP 2021 - New Members & November Renewal Raffle Winners	p. 7
- BC Research	p. 7
POSTCARD OF THE MONTH - Janice Kidwell - Hope/Princeton Highway Slide	p. 8
- When This Pandemic is Over - Celebrations	p. 9
BCGS MEMBERS' MEETINGS - JANUARY 13 th - Meeting Information	p. 10
- Where Should I Put My Family History? - Eunice Robinson	p. 10
- February 2021 - To be announced - See Feb 1 Newsletter	p. 10
LOOKING BACK AT THE DECEMBER MEMBERS' MEETING	p. 11
BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY - Library CLOSED - Reopens January 9, 2021	p. 14
- News from the Stacks - Corrine Jubb	p. 14
- Genealogy Gems - Celia Lewis - Beginners in German Genealogy	p. 15
- FamilySearch Affiliate Library	p. 15
- BCGS Genealogy Chats - Meetings via Zoom	p. 16
BCGS NEWS - Coffee Chat Scheduler Volunteer - Jan Graf	p. 17
- BCGS Gift Certificate - Available Through Our Website	p. 17
- BCGS Volunteer Opportunities - Find-A-Grave Project	p. 17
- BCGS 50th Anniversary Alaska Cruise - Update	p. 18
- Library Fundraising - Save Those Pull Tabs & Cans	p. 18
- Corrigenda	p. 18
BCGS 2021 CALENDAR - 1971 - 50 Years Ago - BC Legislature Day, Victoria, BC	p. 19
- Letter from Australia - Calendar Praise	p. 20
- 2021 Calendar - was sold out - EIGHT (8) MORE AVAILABLE	p. 20
GENEALOGY NEWS IN BC	p. 21
- Vancouver Public Library/Update - Surrey Libraries/Update	p. 21
- United Empire Loyalists' News	p. 22
GENEALOGICAL SEMINARS, WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS	p. 23
BCGS FACEBOOK PAGES - Main Page & Discussion Group	p. 23
MEMBERS' CORNER	p. 24
- Patrick Keily - As I Recollect - My Last Day on Guam	p. 24
- Meg McLaughlin - Resolutions and Habits	p. 25
- Janice Kidwell - Happy Hogmanay!	p. 26
- Ann Buchanan - Eyam Village, Derbyshire & the Plague of 1665	p. 27
- Peter Whitlock - Who Mentored You? Addendum	p. 28
MARK YOUR CALENDAR, BCGS Newsletter & Contact Information	p. 29

Check our website www.bcgcs.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.



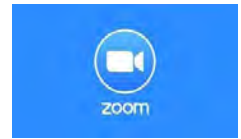


THE NEXT BCGS MEMBERS' MEETING

will take place on

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

via ZOOM



PRESENTER - EUNICE ROBINSON

Where Should I Put My Family History?

See page 10 for details



BCGS GENEALOGY EDUCATION - ONLINE CLASS



Genealogy – The Next Step

Classes to be held using "Google Meet"

Each class will meet on consecutive Mondays

January 4, 2021 to February 1, 2021

7:00 to 9:00 pm



Celia Lewis and Eunice Robinson, two member genealogists from the British Columbia Genealogical Society, will be presenting this class. Register at education@bcgs.ca

The classes are free to members of BCGS. There will be handouts.

Week 1 - Strategies that work

Week 2 - Out of the box

Week 3 - Chasing crumbs

Week 4 - People/Places/Events/Dates & FAN

Week 5 - Writing and sharing for posterity



Monday, January 4, 2021

Monday, January 11, 2021

Monday, January 18, 2021

Monday, January 25, 2021

Monday, February 1, 2021

PLEASE NOTE: Registration is closed for the January/February classes. However, there is the likelihood there will be another set of classes in the spring/early summer. Look for notices in the Newsletter, on our [BCGS website](#) and on our Facebook pages.

BCGS 2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS ARE UNDERWAY



Our Membership Renewal campaign continues.

Please click [here](#) to go directly to our Membership Renewal webpage.

All memberships not renewed by January 31, 2021 will be removed from our mailing lists and from website access to Members Resources.



Happy New Year 2021

Inscriptions:

On the US Side:

"Children of
a Common
Mother"

On the Canadian Side:

"Dwelling
Together in
Unity"



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS 1921-2021 of the installation of our beloved Peace Arch

- * Height - 20 m (67 ft)
- * Built - 1921
- * Architect - HW Corbett
- * Style - Classical Revival
- * US National Register of Historic Places, 1996
- * About 500,000 visitors every year
- * The busiest border crossing west of Detroit



Photos and poster by June Gauntley, member #5112

*June says: In searching 2021 for a 100 year anniversary, it came up that our **Peace Arch** was built that year! So why not celebrate that, right?*

The Peace Arch is a monument situated near the westernmost point of the Canada-United States border in the contiguous United States, between the communities of Blaine, Washington and Surrey, British Columbia. Courtesy: Wikipedia

MESSAGE FROM THE BCGS WEBSITE TEAM

BCGS WEBSITE FEATURES OF THE MONTH



The best part about Genealogy is searching
for ancestors and finding friends.

Lawrence Dillard

BCGS Website – Our Online Resources Page

BCGS Members' Blogs

Did you know that many of our members have their own Blogs?

We have several of them featured on the BCGS Website. Check them out at [Members Blogs](#).

You will certainly find them interesting reading and, who knows, you might also find that elusive bit of information to help you with your own research.

If you are a **BCGS member** and would like your Blog showcased on the website, please email webmaster@bcgs.ca.

One Name Studies

A One Name Study is a branch of family history research that concentrates on all occurrences of a given surname across time and place.

On this page we are pleased to feature One Name Studies done by our members. You can find them at [One Name Studies](#).

If you are a **BCGS member** and would like your One Name Study showcased on the website, please email webmaster@bcgs.ca.

More.....

You will also find links to our Library Catalogue, Affiliate Societies, Members Interests and Members Only Resources on [Our Online Resources](#) page.

****Reminder – Members Interests Updates****

Submit updates BEFORE January 31, 2021 using the form at [Members Surname Interests](#) to have them included in the coming update.

MESSAGE FROM THE BCGS eJOURNAL EDITOR



Lynne Fletcher, BCGS eJournal Editor

As we launch into a new year, one that must be better than the sad year just finished, I am thinking about all the pieces of research that I have studied these last months. Every once in a while, some bit of information suddenly sticks its head up and reveals a part of the life of an ancestor that I've been studying. I think "now that's why he/she did that (moved there, joined that)" and patterns in their life begin to form.

Sometimes those patterns are eerily similar to patterns in my life, and I wonder about why these bits seem so similar. Perhaps I am more like that ancestor than I have realized, or perhaps the forces that challenge a person haven't changed that much over the centuries.

Have you found any of these patterns or similarities in your studies during this last year? Have you found an ancestor that didn't react in the expected way to a challenge, and struck out onto a different path? Could you share their story with our BCGS members?

Perhaps these patterns could inspire us to find a better path to travel in this coming year.

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

Happy New Year!

NOTICE of CALL for NOMINATIONS & AGM

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, we will be holding our **March Meeting and AGM** via Zoom on **Wednesday, 10 March 2021**, at **7:00 pm**.

In addition to the regular business of the Society, **elections will be held for the positions of President, 2 (two) Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer for the 2021 – 2022 term, 1 (one) Director for the 2021 – 2022 term, and 2 (two) Directors for the 2021 to 2024.**

Any member can nominate another member for any of the positions. Please complete a **Nomination Application** for each BCGS member whom you would like to nominate and email or hand deliver it to Eunice Robinson, BCGS Past President. Nominations will not be accepted from the floor during the meeting.

A BCGS Nomination Application is available from Eunice by email upon request at president@bcgs.ca

We will be creating a separate email address for members to return their ballots. These ballots will be tabulated by 3 scrutineers, who will provide the results the night of the AGM. Remember, all full members are eligible to vote.

Eunice Robinson, BCGS Past President Responsible for Nominations



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.

5819 Donna Arseniuk in Stettler, AB
5820 Wendy Schultz in Calgary, AB
5821 Peter Malkin in Vancouver, BC
5822 Terry Smith in Regina, SK
5823 Leroy Mickelson in Surrey, BC
5824 Linda Thiel from Kelowna, BC
5825 Kenneth Nowel from North Vancouver, BC
5826 Dayle Gutierrez from Nanaimo, BC



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2021

The Membership Team is pleased to announce that many 2021 membership renewals were received. All of these renewals, as well as all new member applications, were entered into a draw to receive their choice of a wonderful genealogy book. The first draw took place at our December 9th meeting. The lucky members are:

5444 – Sam Ueland

5323 – Ann Petty

5033 – Janice Kidwell

5804 – Ian Stewart

5335 – Phyllis McConnachie

Congratulations to all of them.

The **2nd draw** will take place at our January 2021 meeting. To be eligible, you will have needed to renew your membership or have joined the BCGS before December 31, 2020.

And remember, if your membership renewal is not received by January 31, 2021, you will no longer have access to the Members' Resources section of the BCGS website.



YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP includes *FREE ACCESS* to the BCGS RESEARCH TEAM **Ann Buchanan, BCGS Research Co-ordinator**

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, 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. There is no charge to members but donations for extra research would be helpful.

A non-member is charged specific fees based on what they are asking. The [library catalogue](#) is available online to help you prepare for your next visit to the library when we are open again.





POSTCARDS OF THE MONTH - The Story Behind a Picture Postcard

Janice Kidwell, member #5033

HOPE - PRINCETON HIGHWAY SLIDE

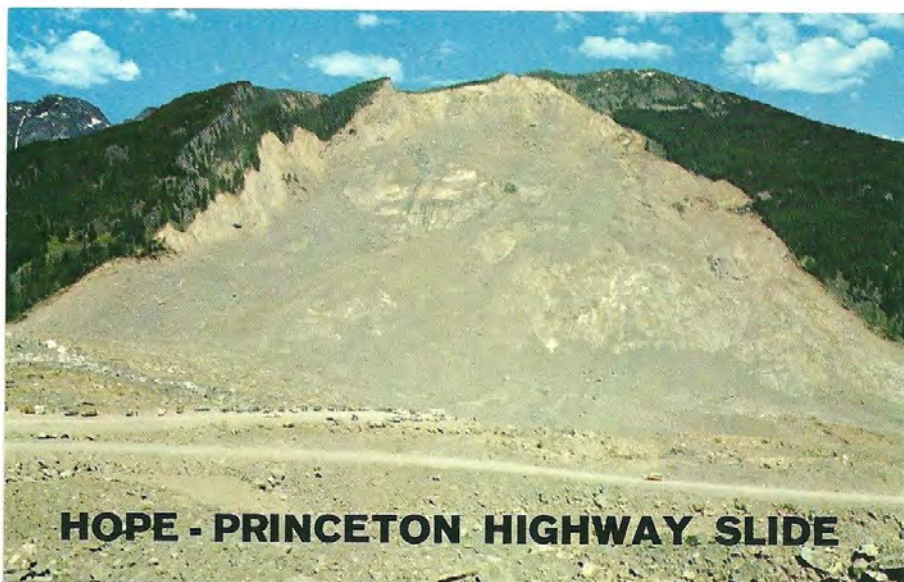
The Hope Slide, the largest known landslide in Canadian history, forever changed the landscape of the Nicolum Valley in the Cascade Mountains near Hope, BC and tragically took the lives of four motorists who were on BC Highway 3 at the time.

In the early morning hours of Saturday, January 9th, 1965, a small avalanche blocked the Hope-Princeton Highway. Some motorists on the Princeton side of the avalanche turned around and headed back up the mountain, while others chose to wait for crews to clear the slide.

At approximately 7 am, a devastating rock slide occurred at the same location, with half of Johnson Peak collapsing and descending into the valley below. The main slide, thought to have been triggered by a small earthquake, filled the valley bottom with more than 47 million cubic metres of rock, mud, and debris – up to 500 ft deep in some locations. Outram Lake, located at the foot of the slide area, was completely displaced. The slide buried a car that had become stuck in the first slide, an oil tanker truck, and a loaded hay truck.

A large response was initiated and with the assistance of a search dog, crews were able to recover the bodies of Thomas Starchuck, the driver of the hay truck and Bernie Lloyd Beck, the driver of the car. The two other victims of the slide, Dennis George Arlitt and Mary Kalmakoff, passengers in Beck's car, were never recovered. The driver of the oil tanker – Norman "Steph" Stephanishin - boarded a westbound Greyhound bus that had stopped. After relaying the situation, the bus driver backed down the road and turned around at the Allison Lumber Company road. From there it was just a few minutes to Sumallo Lodge. The phone at the lodge was dead.

For more information on this particular point of alerting authorities, go to <http://www.archivos.ca/?p=130>. It is all very interesting.



Of interest is that the Hope Slide location is the second largest rock quarry in North America. The area where the Hope Slide debris field is located and its mineral rights are privately owned by a development company and if anyone wanted to remove a rock from the site, they would need to have written permission.

The "rest area" where the monuments are located (plaque and sign) and the access road off Highway 3 are owned and maintained by the Ministry of Transportation and Highways.

Continued on page 9.

HOPE - PRINCETON HIGHWAY SLIDE, cont'd

Many thanks to BCGS member, Allison Hetman, who sent me 71 postcards for the BCGS postcard collection. I had wanted to do a write-up on the Hope Slide since the event had taken place in the month of January but did not have a suitable card. I was therefore very happy to receive her donation, which included the Hope Slide. These cards had a bit of a journey over 2-3 days with going for a car ride, inside a golf bag for a round of golf, another car ride to the post office, then the ferry and finally via the postman to my home. All arrived in great shape!

On the back of the postcard, the write-up is Hope, B.C., Canada. Hope-Princeton Highway Slide. Photo by George Weinhaupl. S-1676. Pub. By Natural Color* Productions Ltd. Vancouver, B.C. Made in Canada. There is neither a stamp nor any writing on the back. **spelling shown on postcard*

The following is not directly related to the Hope Slide, but of plane crashes that took place in the area of the slide. On August 13, 1965 an aircraft piloted by **Samuel William Kenneth Stevenson**, a lawyer from Brandon, Manitoba crashed, taking his life.

On April 23, 1966, an **RCAF Grumman CSR-110 Albatross (9302)** search-and-rescue aircraft (known as "the Albert") with five air crew members and one passenger aboard was on a routine training flight from its home base of Comox to Penticton, when it became trapped in low clouds and crashed into the mountain above the Hope Slide. Two people who had stopped at the Hope Slide viewing spot heard the plane crash (in the clouds) and a faint voice of a survivor. They drove to Hope to report this. A portion of the wreckage is still visible and can be reached by hiking to the spot.

The five Canadian airmen who perished in that accident were:

RCAF Squadron Leader James Leslie BRAIDEN (passenger)
RCAF Flying Officer Christopher John CORMIER
RCAF Leading Aircraftman Robert Elwood MacNAUGHTON
RCAF Flight Lieutenant Phillip Leonard MONTGOMERY
RCAF Flight Lieutenant Peter SEMAK
RCAF Captain Robert REID survived the crash

There is a Memorial Plaque located at the Hope Slide Viewpoint to honour and remember the people who lost their lives at the Hope Slide as well as the RCAF members and the civilians who lost their lives through plane crashes in this area.

There is a Memorial Bench dedicated to Norma and Norm Stephanishin (driver of the oil tanker who went for help) located in the Riverside Park, Kamloops, B.C.

With thanks to:

Allison Hetman

Brian McKinney, Visitor Information Counselor, Hope Cascades & Canyons Visitor Centre <https://hopebc.ca/about/visitor-centre/>

Judith Ueland, BCGS Co-editor



When this pandemic 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 - Christmas - New Year's - Robbie Burns Day - Valentine's party that anyone has ever seen!

BCGS MEMBERS' MEETINGS

News about both upcoming and previous members' meetings



Meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 pm.

THE NEXT MEETING is

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2021

The **JANUARY MEETING** will be held via **ZOOM**.

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

PRESENTER - EUNICE ROBINSON

Where Should I Put My Family History?

MEMBERS' VOICE

Please advise our President if you wish to present your family history story

ABOUT the WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13th BCGS MEMBERS' MEETING via ZOOM

- Our previous Members' Meetings via Zoom have been well attended; therefore, we are continuing with this program for the upcoming meeting.
- An invitation from the BCGS to the Monthly Meeting using Zoom will be sent to members, so watch your inbox for details about the website address, meeting number and password.
- If you don't receive the email by the day before the meeting, please contact the editors of this Newsletter at newsletter@bcgs.ca
- Each member needs 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.



FEBRUARY 2021



All group meetings are cancelled for the foreseeable future.
We will resume when we have permission from our medical professionals.

Join us via Zoom

EDUCATION DURING THE FEBRUARY 10th MEETING

Watch this space in our February 1 Newsletter, as well as the GenBlasts and Facebook page for information about the Education portion of the February meeting



LOOKING BACK at the DECEMBER SOCIAL MEETING



The NINTH BCGS Members' Meeting via Zoom

The Christmas Social and ninth meeting via Zoom had our largest turnout since the beginning of the Zoom meetings in May 2020. Some 82 people joined in. Once again we had members from throughout the province, the United States and even locals who had not been able to attend our in-person meetings.

The Minutes of the November meeting were discussed with the spelling of one member's name to be corrected. **Jim Graham** moved that we accept the minutes (with the correction) and **Eunice Robinson** seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.



The meeting began with **Celia Lewis** discussing the **BCGS Genealogy Online Class** beginning Monday evening, January 4, 2021 entitled **Genealogy – The Next Step**. Celia emphasized that now the basic research methods have been discussed, it is time to look for research oddities to further one's family history. Celia and Eunice will be helping those needing strategies to continue their research and, as Celia stresses, 'to have fun' while doing so.

The meetings will be via Google Meet and participants are advised to log in early in order to sort out the differences in technologies. Queries should be directed to Celia at education@bcgs.ca Please note: Registration is now closed. See our notice on page 3 of the Newsletter.

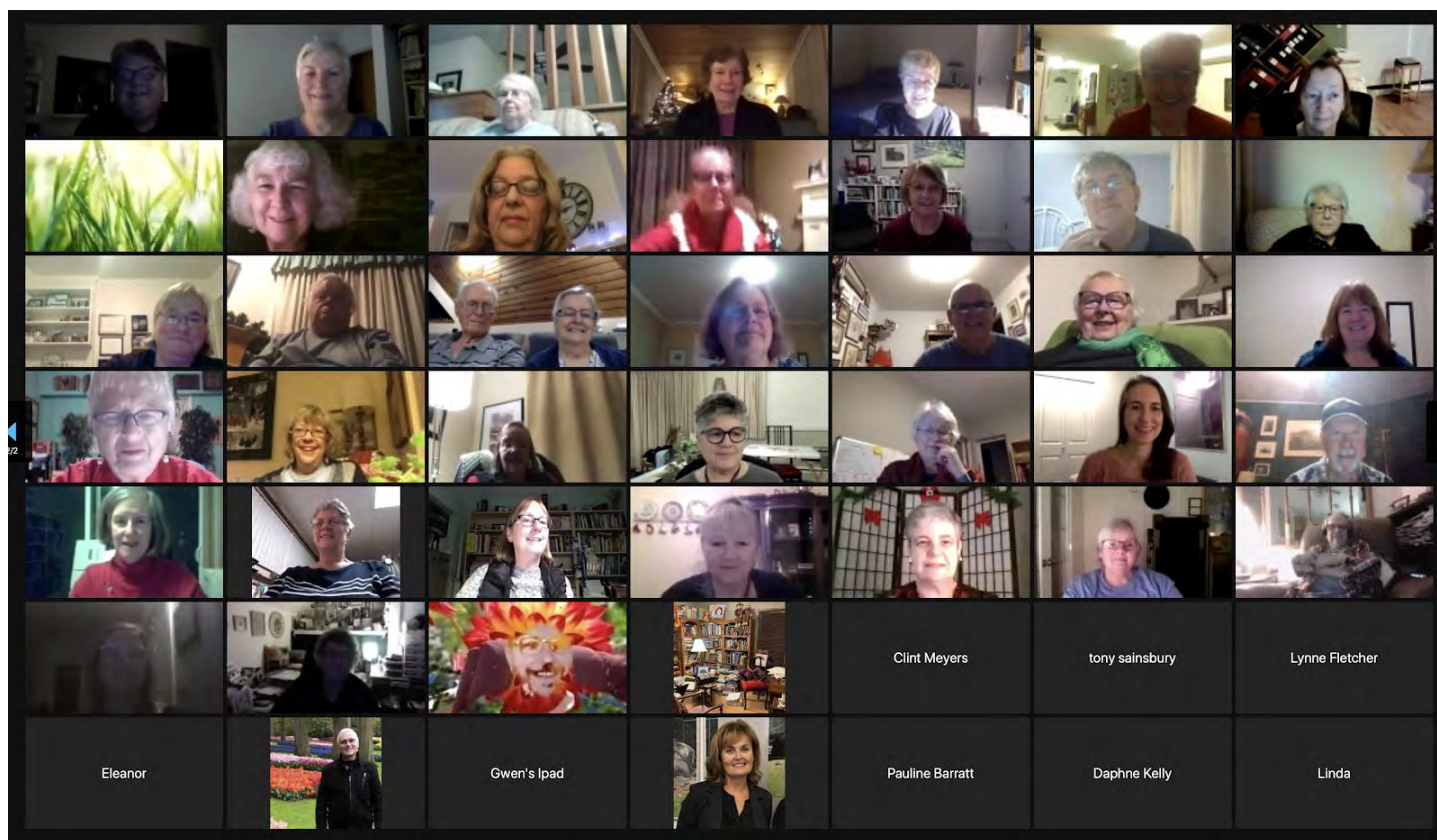
LOOKING BACK at the DECEMBER SOCIAL MEETING, cont'd

A discussion was had about the **Prince George Genealogical Society** closing down despite the valiant efforts of about ten members of the group to keep it going. **Sheila Albrecht**, a former member, says that part of the problem is the lack of volunteer assistance which makes it too hard for the few to keep going considering Covid, which is a problem encountered by many small groups throughout the province and the country. PGGGS has been contacted and invited to join the BCGS.

Our 2021 calendars are sold out - a testament to the Calendar Committee of **Sharon Clayton, George Caldwell and Susan Sullivan**. A pdf version is underway for those who missed out. The calendar will be standard paper size 8-1/2 x 11 for printing. Sue cautioned about the amount of ink needed and suggested one take the pdf calendar to a local printer such as Staples. Editors' note: In the meantime, Linda Maitland has eight calendars that she'd like to re-sell; see p. 20.

Terri Mackenzie drew lots for the five winners of the November Renewal raffle. Each member will be contacted to arrange for a choice of book and distribution. See the Membership Renewal on page 7 for a list of the winners and information about the December raffle.

Eunice Robinson narrated a Christmas Memories powerpoint slide show of photos and descriptions. Pictures sent in by members included those from the 1950s with Christmas trees decorations of the times, pictures with Santa and a collection of BCGS Christmas Socials with the Book Sales and the refreshments brought by members. Notable photos were from **Ernst Stjernberg** showing their Christmas tree in Sweden with *lighted* candles. A selection of Peter Claydon's display of lights in Salt Lake City was also included.



Members Voice at the Meeting

Anyone with a story to relate about a research discovery is welcome to contact our President, Bill Clayton, president@bcgs.ca to ask for time to speak during the meeting. It is a casual undertaking and we are always glad to hear about members' genealogical successes. Members Voice brought comments from a number of members this month.

Janet White announced that the Burnaby Schools book begun in 2004 is now published - a very long time process indeed. The book is titled "**A History of Burnaby Schools**" and retails for \$47.25 with a \$19.00 cost for mailing if needed. The book consists of 350 pages with over 1000 pictures. This brought about a discussion between Janet and Barry Kirk who both attended three of the same schools. Daphne Kelly also attended three schools within the Burnaby district.

Barry Kirk told that he is now doing new DNA tests for his recently discovered English and Scottish families.

Darlene Austin requested information about researching for Russian ancestors and was apprised of the need to know the place and time frame to search as borders moved even when people didn't. Barry Kirk told us there were three empires to contend with: the Austro Hungarian Empire, the Russian Empire, and the Prussian Empire, which was primarily Poland. Sites to begin searching include FamilySearch.org as well as Facebook, which has eastern European lists which are very useful, especially those by Catherine Willson.

Margaret Sharon and **Judith Ueland** discovered a connection in Elgin County in Ontario. Margaret displayed a book called "*The Families of Five Stakes*" by Morley Thomas, which gives a potted history of some original Talbot settler families including their land records. Judith's ancestor, Robert Johnston, sold property to Margaret's great-great-grandfather's nephew, John Smith. This prompted a discussion about individual's middle names probably being that of an ancestor's surname rather than, in the case of women, their maiden name.

A confusion about the names Elgin and Eldon brought us to **Marianne Cote-Malley** relating the story of her ancestor Maria Parker of Eldon County in Ontario, who was a most unusual woman with three husbands. She was considered a refined woman to which one witty member commented that with each marriage she 'married up'. There is much more to the story and Marianne has been asked to write a more complete version for the Newsletter's Members Corner. Look for her story in a future newsletter.

Megan Riter talked about her "Spanish' great-grandmother who she discovered through her research in Quebec was entirely French Roman Catholic and whose ancestors came to North America with Champlain. She discovered this by following her middle name of Lefavre back through multiple generations. A comment to this by Barry Kirk was that the parish records used were filmed by him for the LDS.

Aidren Kayce's Christmas project is to trace her 3x great-grandmother, Rebecca Philips/Welsh's, proper surname. She also wants to discover if the two Rebecca Jenkins are actually one person or perhaps first cousins with the same name. On checking Ancestry Trees, she discovered incorrect uses of the people and names. This also prompted the comment that one should be wary of the trees as others do not always prove a relationship before posting.

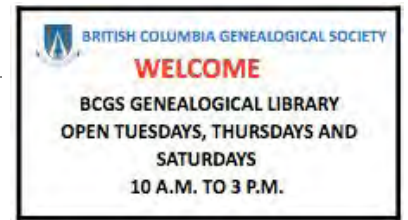
It was a lively meeting with many speaking about their discoveries and some of the peculiarities of their research.

We closed by wishing all a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.**



BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

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

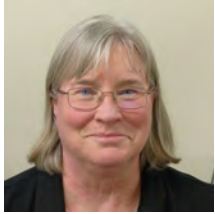


BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

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

Normally open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

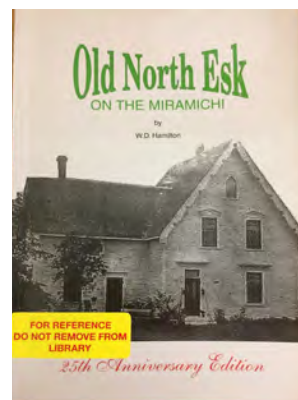
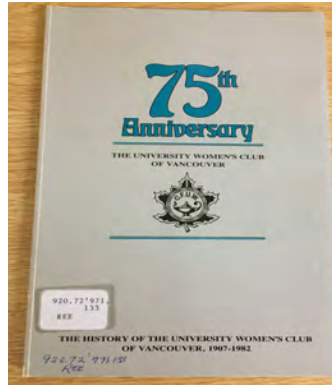
Due to the recent Public Health Orders issued by Dr. Bonnie Henry, the BCGS library will remain closed until Saturday, January 9, 2021. We will reopen on that date if allowed.



Corrine Jubb, Library Administrator

BCGS celebrates 50 years in 2021. Many books celebrate milestones of a group, church, business or community. Five examples of these celebration books from the BCGS library are:

- 920.72 '971.133 REE - 75th Anniversary, the University Women's Club of Vancouver (1907-1982)
- 971.134 HUN – 100th Anniversary Mayne Island Post Office by Canada Post (written in both English & French)
- 971.133 TC - Flying High, the 50th Anniversary of Vancouver International Airport 1931-1981
- 974.7 PEL - One Hundred Sixth Yearbook 1984, the Collegiate reformed Protestant Dutch Church of the City of New York
- R971.520 HAM by W.D. Hamilton – Old North Esk on the Miramichi (Northumberland County New Brunswick) – 25th Anniversary Edition





GENEALOGY GEMS & ODDITIES in our BCGS Genealogical Library

Celia Lewis, member #5183

TWO handy resources for BEGINNERS in GERMAN GENEALOGY:

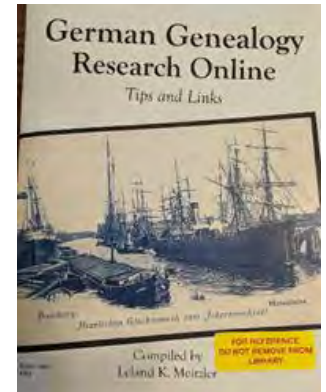
Sometimes you only need a guide, a simplified set of links and tips, or examples of what the German documents might look like and how to recognize the German words. Although somewhat outdated, these two resources in our library continue to be helpful by briefly and specifically providing information on Germany and German resources for the beginner.

1. R929.1'943 / MEI **German Genealogy Research Online: Tips and Links**, compiled by Leland K. Meitzler, a well-known American genealogist

Yes, that **R** indicates it is a **Reference** item, to be used only in the Library [when we open up again!]. Although published in 2012, the information continues to be very useful.

More and more archives and databases are online now, but this 19 page guide will definitely help a beginner in German Genealogy start to gather basic resources, and make a plan for research. It ends with "30 helpful online German Research Resources."

Remember that if any of the links don't seem to work, check Cyndi's List for updated links.



2. 929'943 / HP HV8 **Finding Your German Ancestors, 2nd Ed., Dr. Hans W. Rerup**



This is one of the very useful **Heritage Productions**, small coil-bound books on specific genealogy topics and places. One of the most useful parts of this book are the full page examples of various church records in German or in German & Latin. An excellent way to quickly see what a German record looks like in both German and in English translation of the column headings. Very reassuring for a beginner.

Detailed tables towards the back of the book show parishes listed alphabetically by region, with dates of earliest registrations. This book would make a very helpful resource book, even though it was published in 2002. A German genealogy beginner would make many notes for future research!

I've already photocopied a dozen pages for when I get serious about my 1740s German immigrants to the US!

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY has AFFILIATE LIBRARY STATUS with [FamilySearch.org](https://www.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**. When we reopen, 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.

BCGS GENEALOGY CHATS - CHATS ARE TAKING PLACE via ZOOM

Click [here](#) for Local Events

Genealogy Chats at the BCGS Genealogical Library

When the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, 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. Until then, join us **via Zoom**.



QUEBEC QUESTERS GENEALOGY CHAT

Saturdays, Jan 9 & Feb 13 **via Zoom***

10 am to noon

RSVP Linda Maitland

lindamaitland@telus.net



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY CHAT

Topic: Ancestry's Genetic Communities

Mondays, Jan 4 & Feb 1 **via Zoom*** 1 to 3 pm

Jan 4 topic: Charting your DNA Matches

Feb 1 topic: Chromosome Mapping at DNA Painter

RSVP Sharon Clayton sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



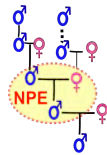
EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY CHAT

Parental Puzzles (NPE)

Mondays, Jan 18 & Feb 15 **via Zoom***

1 to 3 pm

RSVP Sharon Clayton sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



WALES GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursday, Jan 7 **via Zoom****

7 to 9 pm

Facilitator Lynn Owen-Whalen

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



BC GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursday, March 4 **via Zoom****

7 to 9 pm

With Janet White

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



CHINA GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursdays, January 7 & February 4 **via ZOOM***

10 - 11 am

RSVP Linda Yip

hello@past-presence.com



SCOTLAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursdays, Jan 14 & Feb 18 **via Zoom****

7 to 9 pm

With Lorraine Irving

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ENGLAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursdays, Jan 21 & Feb 25 **via Zoom****

7 to 9 pm

With Ann Buchanan

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



IRELAND GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursdays, Feb 4 & March 18 **via Zoom****

7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



SCANDINAVIA GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursday, March 11 **via Zoom****

7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ONTARIO GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursday, Feb 11 **via Zoom****

7 to 9 pm

With Janet White

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ATLANTIC CANADA GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursday, Jan 28 **via Zoom****

7 to 9 pm

With Janet White

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



GERMANS from RUSSIA GENEALOGY CHAT

Thursday, March 25 **via Zoom****

7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson & Elvin Meyers

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



***via Zoom - email the facilitator**
**** via Zoom - email coffeechat@bcgs.ca**
In both cases, 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



JAN GRAF, Coffee Chat Scheduler

Those members wishing an invitation to the BCGS sponsored genealogical Coffee Chats should contact Jan. Her BCGS email is the newly created address coffeechat@bcgs.ca.

**Please note that members wanting to attend the Chinese Chat Group, the two DNA Chat Groups and the Quebec Questers will continue to contact the facilitators of those groups.*



BCGS GIFT CERTIFICATE

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

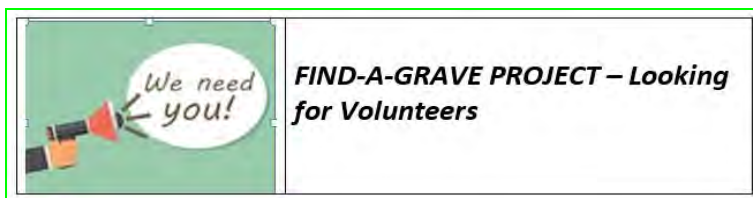
It's easy to order. **Go to our [website](#)**. The order form is under "**Membership**" in a category called "**Gift Membership**". The first page explains what happens, then click the "**Gift it**" button and it takes you to the page where you can select and add to the shopping cart.

There is a very short form for the purchaser to complete since the membership committee will have to contact the new member to give privacy notice and permission to send them emails. This method allows the purchaser to pay on-line. Our membership team will then send the certificate to either the person purchasing the gift or the recipient. If you would like to purchase a gift certificate using a cheque or cash, please contact [Membership](#).

BCGS VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

There are lots of volunteer opportunities within the BCGS. Many hands make light work and ALL help is appreciated!

The BCGS Genealogical Library is now closed. Unless there is a new health order, the BCGS Library is scheduled to reopen on January 9th, 2021; however, many of our projects can easily be done at home.



We have some pretty impressive statistics on BCGS' contribution to Find-a-Grave. Our volunteers have finished posting 79 of the 150 cemeteries that BCGS published. We have contributed to 22,000 memorials and we manage 4,600 memorials. And we have added 3,800 memorials that had been previously transcribed

by BCGS members, but had not been recorded on Find-a-Grave. **This means there are 3,800 more deceased family members out there who are now waiting to be reconnected with their long lost relatives.**

Did you know Find-a-Grave will also accept memorials for those deceased who have been cremated? We'd like to reach our goal of 100 cemeteries by the end of March 2021. Can you help us? Instructions, assistance and training provided! Contact Marianne Cote-Malley at mgardenangel@hotmail.com. We'd be very happy to have you join us.



BCGS 50th ANNIVERSARY ALASKA CRUISE - SEPTEMBER 2021

A NOTE from the BCGS BOARD of DIRECTORS re the 2021 BCGS 50th Anniversary Alaska cruise. At this time, with the current pandemic, it is impossible to speculate on where the world will be in September 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.

To keep up with the latest news about the cruise, join our [Facebook group](#).

NEW HEALTH PROTOCOLS: In a press release dated September 23, 2020, the Cruise Lines International Association (CILA) announced, *"a new set of health protocols as part of a phased-in, highly controlled resumption of operations in North America"*.

New regulations would require that ALL passengers and crew be tested for Covid-19. Air management and ventilation strategies are being re-examined to increase fresh air on board. When physical distancing is not possible, face masks would be compulsory. Cruise lines could deny boarding to passengers who do not comply.

JANUARY UPDATE: Happy New Year, Everyone - Like almost everyone around the world, we're not at all saddened to leave the drama and uncertainty of 2020 behind.

Three new vaccines are now en route to people who need and want vaccination. Let's hope that those who need and want to be vaccinated will be able to rest easy prior to mid June 2021.

Until then, let's all take Dr. Bonnie Henry's wise advice about washing our hands, and wearing our masks when it's not possible to keep safe distances between us.



FUNDRAISING - POP CANS and BOTTLES

Bill Clayton advises us that the total amount of money collected as of December 29 was **\$748.15**, which is \$190.70 more than his last update. No longer a small amount, these funds are for the **Alice Louise Marwood Fund (ALM Fund)**, which is used for upkeep of the Library.

As the Library is closed until January 9th, 2021, you are welcome to drop your pop cans and bottles off in Bill's driveway, which is in South Surrey if that is convenient for you. Bill will see them returned and funded to the library. Email Bill at president@bcgs.ca

Each donated can or bottle makes a difference to our BCGS budget.

CORRIGENDA for the DECEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

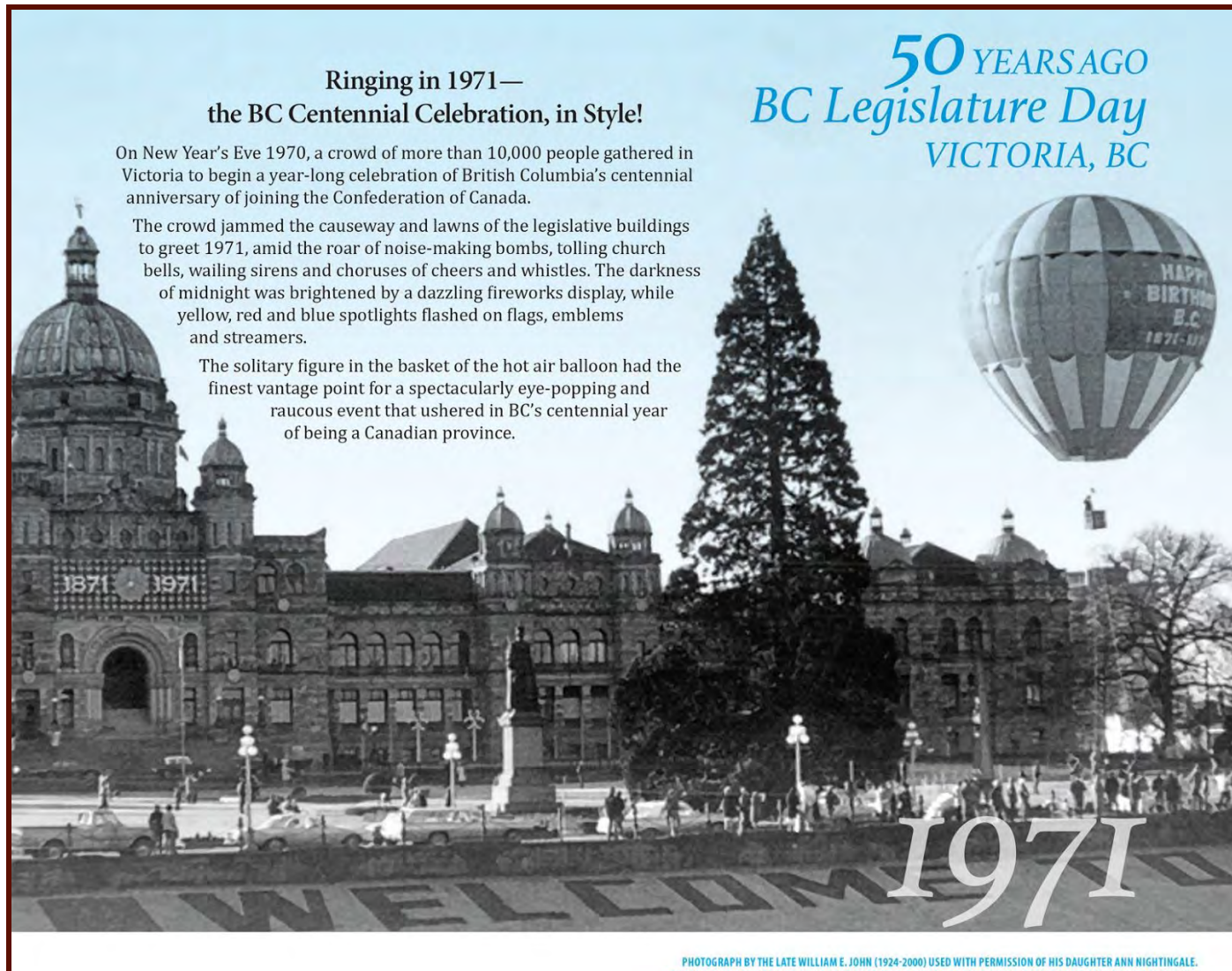
Page 11. Fourth paragraph - *for* Maureen *read* Lorine Schulze of Olive Tree Genealogy.

Page 27. First paragraph - *for* Gramma Joe Keily *read* Gramma Joe Eder.



1971 - 50 YEARS AGO: BC Legislature Day, Victoria, BC

Photo construction: George Caldwell, written commentary: Sharon Clayton, Susan Sullivan, Graphic Design



50 YEARS AGO
BC Legislature Day
VICTORIA, BC

**Ring in 1971—
the BC Centennial Celebration, in Style!**

On New Year's Eve 1970, a crowd of more than 10,000 people gathered in Victoria to begin a year-long celebration of British Columbia's centennial anniversary of joining the Confederation of Canada.

The crowd jammed the causeway and lawns of the legislative buildings to greet 1971, amid the roar of noise-making bombs, tolling church bells, wailing sirens and choruses of cheers and whistles. The darkness of midnight was brightened by a dazzling fireworks display, while yellow, red and blue spotlights flashed on flags, emblems and streamers.

The solitary figure in the basket of the hot air balloon had the finest vantage point for a spectacularly eye-popping and raucous event that ushered in BC's centennial year of being a Canadian province.

1971

PHOTOGRAPH BY THE LATE WILLIAM E. JOHN (1924-2000) USED WITH PERMISSION OF HIS DAUGHTER ANN NIGHTINGALE.



THE BCGS 50th ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

We will provide a financial reckoning
in a future Newsletter.
Stay tuned!

The BCGS has received a letter from Australia expressing appreciation for the efforts and abilities of our Calendar Team with regards to the 2021 calendar they have so beautifully produced. Sharon's reply follows.

Encounter Bay 5211
South Australia, Australia
November 29th 2020
Email – fwehall@bigpond.com

Dear Sharon,

I thought I would like to write a review on receiving the British Columbia Genealogical Society's 2021 Calendar.

It was so beautifully prepared, in an easily readable font, and contained a wealth of information, including interesting tidbits throughout the calendar. I was really impressed with the "to do this month" section – what a thoughtful idea to include this in your calendar. The photos both big and small were a delight to see, and I must admit that I really enjoyed reading every word, as being from overseas the local information was really appreciated, and they all related to the year that the Society was founded.

This is a credit to you and the committee, and indicates just how much time and effort has been put into producing the calendar. Please express my congratulations to those involved in its preparation and production.

Yours sincerely
Elaine Hall

Hi Elaine,

The members of the BCGS 2021 Calendar Team are grateful that you took the time to write such a kind and thoughtful review of our 2021 calendar. The project was a labour of love from March - September, so it's nice to know our efforts are appreciated, especially from as far away as Australia!

We are forwarding your letter to the editors of the BCGS monthly online newsletter and the quarterly journal.

Many thanks,
Sharon Clayton



**Good News for People Who Were Disappointed When
We Sold Our Last Remaining Calendars**

Eight (8) More Calendars are Available

Linda Maitland has eight (8) calendars she'd like to re-sell, so she asked if we had a waiting list. If you're one of the people who wanted to put your name on a waiting

list, please contact Linda at
lindamaitland@telus.net.



GENEALOGY NEWS in BC

Upcoming events and new genealogical resources in BC



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



A note from Vancouver Public Library

Ancestry Library Edition

VPL cardholders can now enjoy access to Ancestry Library Edition from home for free until **MARCH 31, 2021**. Click [here](#) to visit their genealogy guide for more research help.



Surrey Libraries Family History

Ancestry from Home – Extended to MARCH 31, 2021!

(This is generously provided through ProQuest and their partner Ancestry). Access through the website here:

<https://www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history>

(scroll down until you see the Ancestry login button).



New Program: Unlock Your Family Story: writing and publishing your family's history

Is your family story locked in your accumulated documents and trees? Does your family ask for the stories? Then it's time to pull it all together and publish that story! Join Brenda L. Smith and Andrea Lister for this five-part online program to guide you through putting your research on the page and packaging it to share with your family. Topics include: preparing to write, editing, legal necessities, choosing the right format, and an assignment to get you started. Wednesdays January 27 - March 24. Pre-registration is required. Via Microsoft teams.

Fun Family History Friday

Join us for some lively, open family history discussions. All levels welcome. Fridays, January 22 - March 26. Pre-registration is required. Via Microsoft Teams.

Genealogy Orientation & Consultation

These are in-person, one-on-one sessions (with full covid safety protocols in place) for anyone new to genealogy OR needing a new direction in their research. A session will include a tour of our department and the resources, databases, and services we offer, as well as some personal consultation to discuss your specific research needs and create a new research plan with you. Please call or email us to make an appointment – 604-598-7328 or familyhistory@surrey.ca.

Remember: We are open for in-person visits and research. Time in the library is limited to one hour, with 45 minutes on the computer. We are hoping this will be extended soon. Library and Family History Department hours are here:

<https://www.surreylibraries.ca/locations/cloverdale-branch>

If you have **any questions**, please email familyhistory@surrey.ca , or call 604-598-7328.

UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS OF CANADA

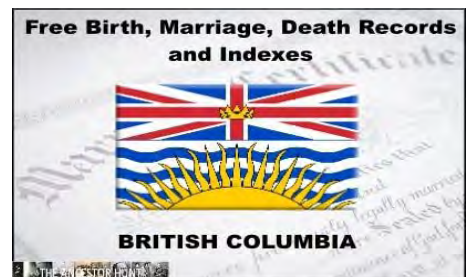


British Columbia Birth, Marriage, and Death (BMD) Record Links

Snipped from Kenneth R. Marks' blog, The Ancestor Hunt, 19 December 2020

<https://www.theancestorhunt.com/blog/british-columbia-birth-marriage-and-death-bmd-record-links#.X96TLdhKhPY>

One of the main goals for genealogists is finding birth, marriage, and death (BMD) information about their ancestors. Over the past few decades, thanks to volunteers, librarians and archivists (as well as the largest of them all - FamilySearch), a great number of indexes to birth, marriage, and death collections have been provided for free online. These searchable indexes provide specific BMD information, and often scanned images of the actual birth, marriage, and death certificates themselves. These free online collections have hundreds of millions of records in them in total.



GENEALOGICAL SEMINARS, WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS

Upcoming seminars, webinars & workshops that you can take part in virtually from wherever you are

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

Saturday, January 9, 2021 from 12:45 to 2:30 pm via Zoom

Author, journalist, Canadian genealogist -- Dave Obee

Presenting "Decoding the Dash: Build the Story of Their Lives"

This presentation is free to members and interested genealogist guests like you. To receive your Zoom link invitation please contact the Society by Thurs. January 7 at this email address: rootsproject1@gmail.com.

In your email include your first and last name and email address to send the link to. The Zoom link will be emailed to you on Friday Jan. 8 so look for it in your inboxes.



Qualicum Beach Family History Society

Guest Speaker - Chris Paton

Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 10:00 am via zoom

10:00am: British and Irish Newspapers

11:30am: Using the internet and PRONI for northern Irish Research.

These talks will be free to all members of the Qualicum Beach Family History Society (QBFHS). If you are not already a member of the Society, you may join [here](#) and you will be able to have access to all of our speakers for 2021.



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, in quarantine or recuperating.

British Columbia Genealogical Society - Information about the BCGS and announcements for upcoming BCGS events are posted in this account. Open to non-BCGS members too. You can join [here](#).

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. As well, genealogical items of interest are posted. Open to non-BCGS members too. You can join [here](#).

BCGS 2021 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

You can renew [here](#).

All memberships not renewed by January 31, 2021, will be removed from our mailing lists and from website access to Members Resources on the BCGS website.

MEMBERS' CORNER

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



Patrick Keily, member #5414

As I Recollect - My Last Day on Guam

How many have discovered criminals in their family tree? Maybe criminal is too harsh. How about law-breakers? That doesn't seem quite so judgemental. Anyway, I did something 50 years ago that could have gotten me in deep trouble, a "crime" of vanity, but still a serious offense.

The U.S. Navy was (and probably still is) steeped in tradition. Laundry was hung, not with clothespins, instead tied with pieces of rope, hats (covers) had to be three fingers above the eyebrows, and they still hold "King Neptune's Court" for sailors crossing the equator for the first time, just to name a few. Most were tolerated, some were ignored, but one in particular was hated—haircuts required before going on leave!

In 1970, I was transferred from Fleet Weather Central - Guam to Fleet Weather Facility - Suitland, just outside Washington, DC. Before a person could leave his or her current duty station, a checklist of departments had to be initialed by personnel in charge. Base library, commanding officer, barracks Petty Officer (petty - something small and insignificant), all the places that had records of you or where you might owe money. Pretty simple stuff. One place however, was the one dreaded by all non-career sailors—the Chief Master at Arms' office.

The CMAA was almost always a senior chief Boatswain's Mate (rope choker) with 30+ years of service and a genuine dislike of Airedales - naval aviation sailors, of which I was one. Any sailor with orders had to stand his inspection, and no matter what, you wouldn't pass the first time. I was in need of a haircut and didn't want to get one. I wanted to fit in with the real world while on leave, but how was I to get past that roadblock to looking cool? The answer? Someone had copied the signature of the CMAA, and I got my forgery fingers on it. I practiced for an hour until I had it perfect. Done!

One last stop before catching my plane was Personnel to turn in my check-off sheet. The uniform of the day on Guam is always Tropical White. Traveling back to the States in winter meant you had to wear your dress blues. And if you were wearing dress blues on Guam, you were either coming or going.

So, as I headed for Personnel, I see a Chief coming towards me. I see gold hash marks from his wrist to his elbow, maybe even beyond. No doubt, it's the man I feared, the Chief Master at Arms! He's just stepped out of the CMAA office and he sees me, dress blues and long hair. "Hey, sailor!" Oh My God. It's Portsmouth Naval prison for sure. Forgery is no laughing matter. Swallowing hard, I said, "Y-y-yes, Chief?" Pointing to my forearm, he said, "Roll down those sleeves!" I never felt such relief in my life. He didn't even notice the hair. He must have thought I was reporting in.



As I turned in my paperwork to the PN 3rd Class, he told me how lucky I was to be going home for Christmas and wished me well. As I started to walk away, he said to me, "By the way, Chief (whatever his name was that I'd forged on the check off sheet) left Guam 6 months ago." He gave me that knowing smile and said, "Have a good trip."

When that Pan Am 707's wheels lifted off the runway, I felt tremendous relief. I also thought I am never gonna ever do anything like that again. With a little luck and another sailor who'd turned a blind eye, I'd escaped serious punishment. I guess I just wasn't cut out for a life of crime. *Photo: Patrick with his parents, 1971*



Meg McLaughlin, member #3847

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.

Resolutions and Habits

It's traditional to bring in the New Year with resolutions, at least for some people. I wonder if the year we have just been through will lead to more people making resolutions? It was certainly one for the history books. And if the year brought more challenges for keeping resolutions, it certainly introduced us to many new things and probably resulted in a new habit or two.

I looked up how to start new habits online. The advice given was that it takes three weeks of daily practice to turn something into a habit. Well, that would work for getting into the habit of imbibing in a daily potent pick-me-up, which, according to the news, more of us seem to be doing if liquor store sales are anything to go by, or perhaps for practicing something more positive, like not smoking or getting daily exercise.



Personally, I find that places have a lot to do with habits. You know, like when our genealogy meetings were at Edmonds I used to go to the bakery in the mall across the street. I was addicted to their meringues but I never went back to that bakery after our meetings moved. I eat a lot fewer meringues now. Even in these self-isolating times, being stuck in one place at home has meant getting in the habit of meeting with people online.

It has been interesting to be able to attend conferences no matter where they are held like the upcoming Roots Tech Connect, my first ever in person Roots Tech conference. I will be happy to get back into the habit of in person research. But I'm not sure if that will be possible this year.



Not only are the possibilities of travel and closed research venues still up in the air but I'm looking forward to and half dreading a change in place. Moving will help with my resolution to get my genealogy in order, a project that I started a few years ago. The timeline on that project has now been shortened considerably. What looms larger is the need to go through my books, those about genealogy, history and other genres. I can remember the movers grumbling about my books last time and there were far fewer books then.

So, as I look forward to a new year with, hopefully, an easing of restrictions, it is with a resolve to create some sort of order in my home, to sort through the detritus of the past 11 years and winnow out the gems and dispose of the chaff. Then I might be better placed to take action when the word comes down about our strata's sale. Who knows when that will happen or where I will end up? But one thing I do know, living in a new place will bring new habits.

Photos: Part of Meg's personal library and her genealogical binders



Janice Kidwell, member #5033

Happy Hogmanay!

Hogmanay is what we Scots call **New Year's Eve** - 31 December - the big night that marks the arrival of the New Year.

Its origins reach back to the celebration of the winter solstice among the Vikings with wild parties in late December.

When the old folk went first footing not only did they have a bottle of whisky and a bottle of red wine, they also carried a lump of coal in a small cloth. This was supposed to chase all the evil spirits from the home they were visiting. They sincerely believed in this practice, which was passed down probably for hundreds of years in the Uists and Outer Hebrides.

As a rule and practice, you had to knock on the door and wait for the householder to invite you in. When the door was fully opened, the 'first footer' had to say a rhyme, "Beannaich an tigh 's na bheil ann" – "Bless this house and all who stay there".

Then you were invited in and wished everyone a Happy Hogmanay by shaking hands. The householder then offered you a drink and after the toast to good health, you would be asked to sit at the table and the lady of the house would remove the table cloth that had been covering the food. As a rule, there would be a leg of lamb, chicken, wild game and shellfish for eating.

Before the first footer left, he always gave his friends refreshment. There was no electricity then but paraffin lamps gave sufficient light. In the 1940's, a lot of dwellings were long thatched cottages with the barn, stable and byre (cow shed) attached.



More information about Hogmanay and "first footing" from Christine Woodcock's blog, Genealogy Tours of Scotland, of 31 December 2020

Perhaps the most important and revered Hogmanay custom is the practice of 'first-footing' which dates back to the Viking days. This involves the first person to cross the threshold once the New Year bells have been rung.

Superstition states that the "first footer" should be a tall male with dark hair. The darker the man's complexion the better, since no one wanted a Viking (raider) turning up on their doorstep - that could only mean trouble! A dark complected man represented luck for the rest of the year.

In addition, the first-footer needs to enter the home carrying salt, coal, a coin, shortbread, and whisky. These gifts represent goodness and abundance for the New Year. The coal for heat/warmth, the coin for financial

prosperity, salt for flavour, shortbread for food and whiskey for good cheer. These gifts are then to be shared with the other guests so that the wishes for a good and prosperous year can then be spread around.





Ann Buchanan, member #5583

Eyam Village, Derbyshire & the Plague of 1665

The current COVID-19 crisis is reminding me of something that our ancestors went through 355 years ago. The National Archives, England has documented a John Ibotson living in the Yorkshire/Derbyshire area of England as far back as 1370. I have documented our direct line of Ibbotsons living in Bradfield, Yorkshire as far back as 1520. This is just 15 miles from the village of Eyam, Derbyshire. This village is also known as “the village of the damned” or the “the village of the last historic plague”.

In 1665, the bubonic plague was sent from London in a flea-infested bundle of cloth to a tailor in Eyam Village, Derbyshire. Within a week, the villagers knew that the sickness had come. Under the direction of the rector, Reverend William Mompesson, and the previously ejected Puritan minister, Thomas Stanley, to whom they had turned for guidance and direction, a number of measures to contain the plague were introduced. These measures led to the village quarantining itself to prevent spreading of the disease outside of their boundary.

Wikipedia reports that “the plague ran its course over 14 months and one account states that it killed at least 260 villagers, with only 83 surviving out of a population of 350. That figure has been challenged on a few occasions, with alternative figures of 430 survivors from a population of around 800 being given. The church in Eyam has a record of 273 individuals who were victims of the plague. Survival among those affected appeared random, as many who remained alive had had close contact with those who died but never caught the disease.”

Science, since then, has proven that a lot of the survivors had a chromosome which gave them protection. This same chromosome still exists in some of the direct descendants of those who survived the plague. One of the more famous survivors is Elizabeth Hancock. She did not get infected despite burying six children and her husband in eight days. The graves are known as the Riley graves after the farm where they lived. The unofficial village gravedigger, Marshall Howe, also survived, despite handling many infected bodies.

The village’s actions prevented the disease from moving into surrounding areas. The villagers placed a ring of rocks around the village to stop outsiders from coming closer. When the outsiders became aware of the situation, they began leaving food for the villagers in some of the many caves that the Peak District is famous for. An article on the Eyam website about underground Eyam remarks “by digging out blockages, cavers can still walk into passage and chambers which have never been entered.” The village’s action today is known as self-isolation.



Eyam Parish Church

In 1720, Joseph Ibbotson and his wife, Ruth Sympson, lived in Hathersage, Derbyshire, which is just 2.6 miles from Eyam. I do not know who their parents were but it is probable, since people did not move around much in those times, that their parents and grandparents were around during the plague. Perhaps they were involved in leaving the food for the villagers in the caves. I find myself feeling quite proud of the place our ancestors played in this historic tale. It makes it easier for me to live through this COVID-19 crisis.

Note: A list of the people that died during the plague is listed on the BCGS website under Member Resources. Some of the surnames that I recognize as ancestors are Frith, Morten, Wilson, Mellor and Darby.



Peter Whitlock, member #0221

Who Mentored You? Addendum to Peter's column in the December 2020 Newsletter

On the right is a copy of the Whitlock coat of arms granted to Richard Whitlock (1565-1624) who went to Prussia about 1580 to live with his uncle, Christopher Colte. Richard married and raised a family that lived in Danzig and Elbing in Prussia and later in Germany and Sweden. He worked for the Eastland Co. a rival of the East India Company. There was a false report of his death in Jakarta in 1616 that told me he was actually on some of the Eastland Company's voyages to the Far East.



Richard Whitlock was the elder brother of Sir James Whitlock (1570-1632).

They both used the same Coat of Arms.

(I have a transcript of the 1592 grant of arms in Latin.)

***** MARK YOUR CALENDAR *****

BCGS EVENTS

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

January 4	Exploring Genetic Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 1 to 3 pm
January 7	Chinese Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 to 11 am
January 7	Wales Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
January 9	Quebec Questers Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 am to noon
January 13	BCGS Members Meeting - via Zoom - 7:30 pm
January 14	Scotland Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
January 18	Exploring Genetic Genealogy (NPE) Chat - via Zoom - 1 to 3 pm
January 21	England Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
January 28	Atlantic Canada Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
February 1	Exploring Genetic Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 1 to 3 pm
February 4	Chinese Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 to 11 am
February 4	Ireland Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
February 10	BCGS Members Meeting - via Zoom - 7:30 pm
February 11	Ontario Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
February 13	Quebec Questers Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 am to noon
February 15	Exploring Genetic Genealogy (NPE) Chat - via Zoom - 1 to 3 pm
February 18	Scotland Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
February 25	England Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm

*New Year's
Day*



*Friday,
January 1, 2021*

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

To unsubscribe - please email membership@bcgs.ca

BCGS NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS



Judith Ueland
Vice-President



Linda Maitland
Director (2023)

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

**Due to Covid 19 & the Christmas season,
CLOSED until Jan 9, 2021**

12837 76 Avenue, Unit 211
Surrey, BC
604-502-9119

BCGS MAILING ADDRESS

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

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

Material in this newsletter may be reprinted unless otherwise noted. Please give appropriate credit to the original source.

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