



# BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

**GENEALOGY NEWS - ABOUT OUR MEMBERS - FOR OUR MEMBERS**

May 1, 2020

Volume 5, Issue 5

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

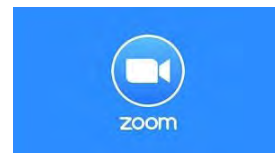


Bill Clayton, BCGS President [president@bcgs.ca](mailto:president@bcgs.ca)

As I said in last month's message, these certainly are interesting times! Keep calm, do genealogy and maintain your social distancing.

The Board of Directors and some of the Special Interest Groups have been able to hold several safe and successful meetings using zoom.us software.

The next step is to **"Zoom"** into our regular **BCGS Members' Meeting** on May 13th.



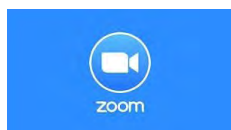
If you don't already have a free zoom.us account, **sign up soon** so that you can attend the May Members' meeting, no matter where you live. Watch for an email, and check our Facebook Groups: [BCGS Genealogical Discussion Group](#) and <https://www.facebook.com/bcgenealogy/> or our website <https://www.bcgs.ca/> for updates and information. See page 8 for more detailed news about the meeting.

Unfortunately, the **BCGS Genealogical Library** continues to be closed. Some of us are visiting the library every few days however, to ensure that there are no problems and to satisfy insurance requirements.

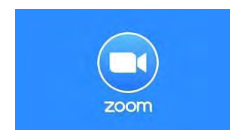
Work on our **BCGS website** revision is progressing well. Our goal is to have it up and running in June. I think everyone will be pleased with how easy it is to manoeuvre around on the site to find what you are looking for.

We are happy to announce that we have a **new Coffee Chat** starting up this month on **May 7th**. BCGS member, Linda Yip, who lives in Saskatchewan, is excited to be hosting a **Chinese Genealogy 101** Coffee Chat via Zoom. For more information about this chat, please see page 13.

## THE NEXT BCGS MEMBERS MEETING

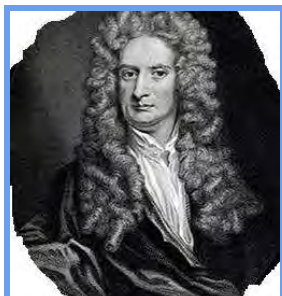


**will take place on**  
**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th**



**Via ZOOM**  
**See page 8 for details**

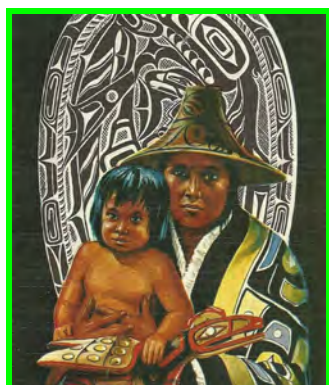
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Check our website [www.bcgs.ca](http://www.bcgs.ca) for more detail about our Society

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](mailto:newsletter@bcgs.ca) or the eJournal editor at [journal@bcgs.ca](mailto:journal@bcgs.ca). Your stories encourage others!







BCGS MAY 2020



Photos and poster by June Gauntley, member #5112



# MESSAGE FROM THE BCGS eJOURNAL EDITOR

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**Lynne Fletcher, BCGS eJournal Editor**

Please send your story and pictures to [Journal@bcgs.ca](mailto:Journal@bcgs.ca)

Amazing what surprises fall out of those boxes sitting on the bottom shelf! I had forgotten two jigsaw puzzles that a friend gave me for a plant sale (which has now been cancelled, like many other special events). Pictures from years ago have shown up and are now the subject for phone calls to cousins in other provinces.

One puzzle still eludes me - the correct day for my grandmother's death. The documents that I have show two different dates, so I'm searching for one that will sort this out. Since libraries are closed, I have been visiting genealogical blog sites, searching for sources. Like trips to brick and mortar sites, it's easy to get side tracked, browsing through odd books or sets of pictures.

Days are much quieter now, and I enjoy the lack of traffic noise and pollution. I hope that your research time goes smoothly and that you find those missing pieces of the puzzle. In the coming months, could you share your results with our Journal readers ?



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## PANDEMIC GENEALOGY STORIES

### What are you doing while isolated?

**Please, tell us how you are extending/revising/re-organizing your research!**

**Jacqueline Penney's** example is ideal. She is working on the very interesting project of transcribing her mother's journals. For further inspiration check below to see what **Isaac Newton** accomplished during his pandemic.



"After an outbreak of Bubonic Plague, the University of Cambridge closed its doors for 2 YEARS.

Isaac Newton had completed his degree, but his academic career was put on hold.

So he retired to a small farmhouse where he developed calculus, optics, and gravitational theory.

Some of Newton's most profound work came from his own quiet period.

In the same way -

NOW is your opportunity."



*TwinInferno.org wisewebwoman.blogspot.com*  
Sent to us by our BCGS eJournal editor.

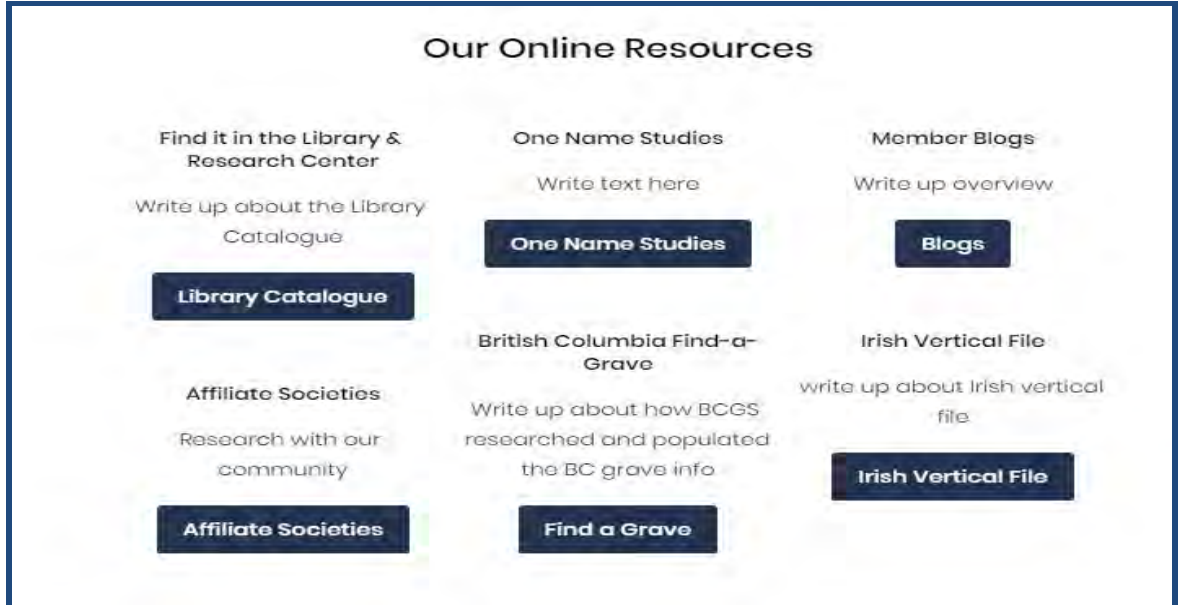
Send your stories to [newsletter@bcgs.ca](mailto:newsletter@bcgs.ca) and we'll print them in the upcoming Newsletters. We have a 500 word limit with room for a picture or two.

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

## Your Website Needs You!!

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.

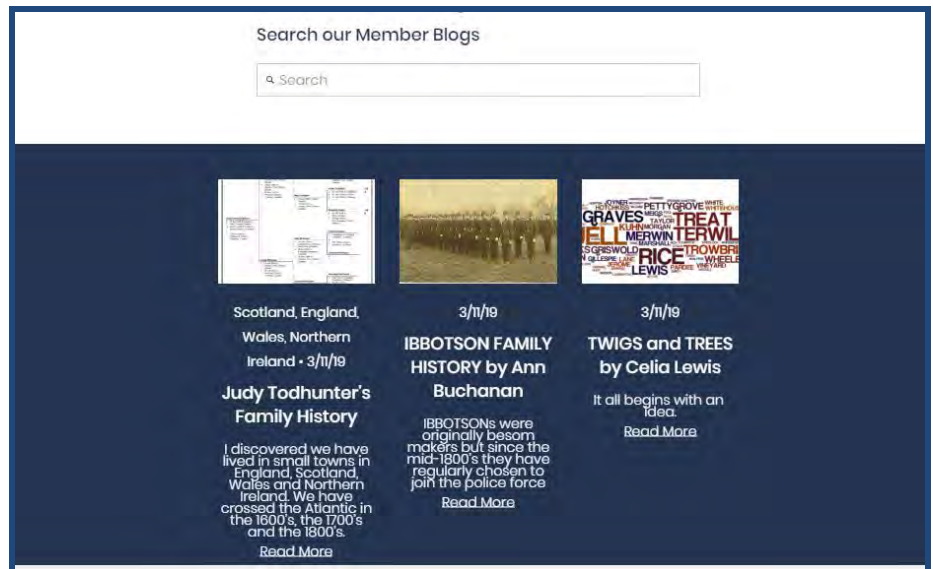


We invite members to let Ann Buchanan [ibbotsonab@gmail.com](mailto:ibbotsonab@gmail.com) know if you have a website, blog, or one-name study that you would like to have linked to this site. Above is an example of what the Online Resources portal might look like.

There will also be a “Members Only” section. We have renamed this section “Members Resources” to better reflect the content. In this section, you will find many of the projects that have been digitized over the history of the society. The focus on this section will be to allow members from outside the Surrey/Vancouver area to have access to some of our library collections.

We are currently asking permission from our exchange partners to list the newsletters that they send us in this password-protected area. Also, in answer to some of your requests, the General Meeting minutes will be posted so that you can see what happened in the meeting even if you did not attend. This is especially helpful in the event of transportation issues (such as being on vacation in Australia) or inclement weather.

It is important to remember that we are in the content collection stage and we will be making everything look beautiful once this is completed. I would recommend that you submit your links as soon as you can. Any suggestions you have will be welcomed by the website committee.



To the right is an example of what the Members Blogs Index page might be like.

# BCGS POSTCARD COLLECTION

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## POSTCARDS OF THE MONTH

### The Story Behind a Picture Postcard - May 2020 - MOTHER'S DAY

Janice Kidwell, BCGS member #5033

Celebrations of mothers and motherhood can be traced back to the ancient Greeks and Romans, who held festivals in honour of the mother goddesses, Rhea and Cybele, although the clearest modern precedent for Mother's Day is the early Christian festival known as "Mothering Sunday."

Mother's Day is an occasion which is celebrated in various parts of the world to express respect, honour and love towards mothers, motherhood, maternal bonds and the contribution and influence of mothers in our society. It is celebrated on various days in many parts of the world, most commonly in the months of March or May.

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#### Mother's Day photo - below left

The Indigenous mother is wearing a Chilkat blanket and a spruce root Haida hat. The child's hand is resting on a raven helmet with abalone and brass inlays. The background is a Haida whale design. The postcard is a Jalaine card, litho in Canada by Frank T. Coan Ltd., Vancouver, B.C. There is no message on the back.



#### Mother's Day photo - above

This postcard of a mother swan and her three cygnets was most likely taken in Switzerland as the original owner of the card has written "Luzerne May 1990" on the top back and the wording Photoglob Zurich/Vevey appears at the bottom. There is no message on the back.

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# MEMBERSHIP

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## 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!



5785 Barb DAYE of Mission, BC

453 Gerry TOWNSEND of Coquitlam, BC

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## 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](mailto: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.

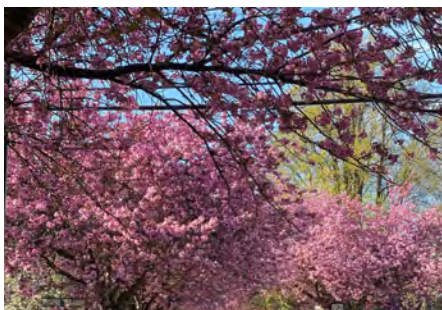
The BCGS library has nearly 18,000 books, over 12,000 newspaper clippings, and many film, CD, and computerized databases. The Library Catalogue is still available online to help you prepare for your next visit to the library.

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## 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.

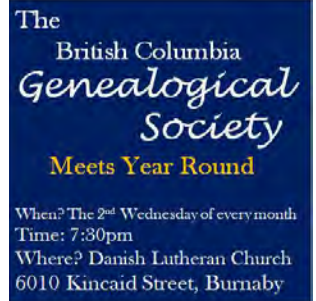
If you would like to purchase a gift certificate, please contact Eunice Robinson at [eunice@genbug.ca](mailto:eunice@genbug.ca)



*Cherry blossoms and blue skies in Vancouver, April 2020. Photos: Victoria Velez*

# 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

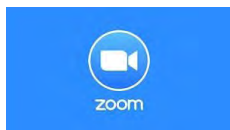
**THE NEXT MEETING is scheduled for:**

**WEDNESDAY, MAY 13th**

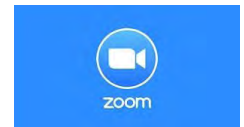
**To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus,  
the MAY MEETING will be held via ZOOM**

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

## ABOUT THE WEDNESDAY, MAY 13TH BCGS MEMBERS ZOOM MEETING



- The meeting organization is still a work in progress.
- We will be sending BCGS members invitations to the Zoom meeting by Mail Chimp, so everyone should watch their inbox for more detail.
- Each member will need a 'free' Zoom account to participate.
- The business portion will be shortened to the bare necessities to allow us to present a video - the speakers we had lined up have decided they would rather present in person at a later date.
- There will be some time for a Q&A session. We will book time for an hour and a half, but if we run over (or under) that won't affect the Zooming.
- This first Zoom meeting will be very much an experiment. With experience, the next ones will improve.



**JUNE & JULY 2020**

**Education Schedule for Members' Meetings**

**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 APRIL MEETINGS of the BCGS BOARD

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**MARCH & APRIL BOARD of DIRECTORS' MEETINGS via ZOOM** - The BCGS Executive and our many volunteers are keeping in touch via email and telephone. A new application - to us - called Zoom has enabled the BCGS Board of Directors to hold virtual meetings (see photo below) to continue the necessary work of the society. Two most successful meetings were held on April 1st (in place of the March Board meeting) and on April 22. A full three hours for each meeting was spent discussing the usual topics needed to enable the society to function. Our thanks to our new President, Bill Clayton, for researching and setting up the process.

**APRIL MEMBERS' MEETING CANCELLED** - Unfortunately, the April Members' Meeting was not able to be held due to the Covid 19 situation. We are all staying home, and if we must venture out, keeping our 2 metre or 6 foot distance, clad in disposable gloves, a mask of some sort, and sanitary wipes for our visa cards. Many of us are only able to have internet meetings with our children, grandchildren and friends.

**NEWSLETTER EDITORS MEET via ZOOM** - Following the Board meeting on April 1, Linda Maitland and Judith Ueland, your editors, continued to meet to iron out some technical problems to do with the April 1st Newsletter. We managed to solve the difficulties, which enabled the Newsletter to be issued on time. Meeting via Zoom is quite remarkable and although perhaps not quite as satisfactory as meeting in person, is most superior to attempting group discussions via email or telephone.



**Board members who were able to attend the Board Meeting via Zoom on April 22:**

**Top row:** Bill Clayton, President; Linda Maitland, Director; Eunice Robinson, Past-President;

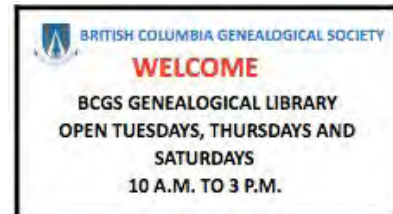
**Middle row:** Judith Ueland, Vice President; Claire Belzer, Director; Corrine Jubb, Library Administrator;

**Bottom row:** Sherry King, Director; Ann Buchanan, Website Liaison; Judy Rosmus, Treasurer;

**Absent:** Peter Whitlock, Director (was present but left the meeting just before photo was taken); Terri Mackenzie, Director; Rob Whitlock, Vice President; Kenneth Livingstone, Director; Lorraine Irving, Corresponding Secretary

# BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

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



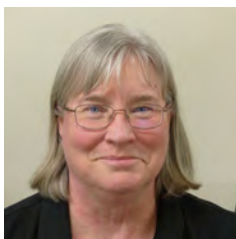
## BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

Unit 211, 12837 – 76<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey, BC

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

**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**

Find A Grave is one of many cemetery-related websites. BCGS has a project team that is adding entries from our own BCGS cemetery publications to Find A Grave. (The BCGS Genealogical Library has print and digital copies of these BCGS publications.) Many headstones were recorded in the 1970s and may or may not now be readable so this project of adding our headstone transcriptions contributes greatly to genealogy.



If you want to be able to add your own entries to Find A Grave, creating an ID (identifier) only takes a few minutes and the ID is free. If you are just searching Find A Grave, an ID is not necessary. <https://www.findagrave.com/>

Other cemetery sites include:

Canada's Gen Web cemetery project at <http://cemetery.canadagenweb.org/>

The USGenWeb project at <http://www.usgenweb.org/>

The Canadian Headstones site at <https://canadianheadstones.com/>

Newfoundland headstones at <http://www.stonepics.com/>

Ireland Genealogy Projects at <http://www.igp-web.com/IGPArchives/headstones.htm#gsc.tab=0>

While we work on our own genealogy research, we might also ask ourselves - can we contribute to the genealogy world? If you have headstone photos, may I suggest you consider adding these to a site of your choice?

## 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**. 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** party that anyone has ever seen!

Fletcher

*oddballobservations.blogspot.com* with a few revisions; sent to the BCGS Newsletter by our eJournal Editor, Lynne





## GENEALOGY GEMS - WEBINARS DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

Celia Lewis, Member #5183, BCGS Webinar Coordinator

### WEBINARS - *free genealogy experts in your living room*

You've heard the term 'webinars' [online seminars] and maybe you'd like to watch one. BUT you're not certain how much it might cost, how to get one to your computer, will it bring viruses in to damage your computer, maybe it will be tedious, or the speaker will talk too fast or...

I'm completely addicted to Webinars by now, having been watching them for over 12 years! And as a retiree living on no pension with no assets, I pinch every loonie in order to indulge my genealogy addiction - er, hobby! Now is an excellent time to explore online genealogy webinars that you can watch any time of the day or night. Here are a few ideas for you to get started.

**Cost:** I particularly like FREE - and there are many free webinars

**Access:** Very easy on some sites. In others, you will be asked to download an app - always say "yes."

**Viruses?** No problem. Several common apps such as GoToWebinar are used with no problems at all. You're significantly more likely to be downloading viruses with those "cute/funny" attachments your friends send to you in group emails.

**Speakers:** Top notch genealogists/historians/lecturers are chosen to present a topic, and almost always there is a helpful handout they've written for you to download to your computer. Again, no fear of viruses with them.

So **WHERE** do you find a webinar topic you'd like to explore or learn about-?

1. **Cyndi's List** - of course! Start on her site, do a search, first on *Education*, then on the subtopic of *Online Courses & Webinars*. Always a great place to start looking. <https://www.cyndislist.com/>

2. **GENEAWEBINARS** - The most useful place to find a webinar/online education on any topic. The calendar is kept up to date, and the links help you as well. Times of webinars are shown in Mountain Time. You can easily print out the list for each week or month.

<https://blog.geneawebinars.com/p/calendar.html>

3. **FamilySearch** - Their education webinars are meant to be ongoing education for the volunteers in their Family History Libraries around the world, but also are available to everybody. It takes a bit of clicking, but go to their WIKI under Search, then in the small search box on the top right, type in Webinars, then click on the next page for FamilySearch Webinars. *[every space below is an \_ underline]*

[https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family\\_History\\_Library\\_Classes\\_and\\_Webinars](https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Family_History_Library_Classes_and_Webinars) And don't forget to scroll down for Current classes and Past classes, with their handouts.

4. **LEGACY Family Tree Webinars \$\$** - from the company who developed/sell my favourite family tree software. There are about 1200 webinars currently in the library, at least 9 new ones/month, plus free bonus ones for members. Some are always FREE, and are labelled. The regularly scheduled ones are free from the day they're online and for 6 days afterwards. However, handouts are only available for active members. Subscribe for a month or a year. Highly recommended, covering many topics. Pick a specific topic: say, England, and see 3 upcoming webinars, 24 already presented. Upcoming Seminars: <https://familytreewebinars.com/upcoming-webinars.php> You do NOT have to be a member to register for any webinar.

5. **Genealogical Societies:** e.g., Southern California GS, Florida GS, Illinois GS, New York G&BS, Ontario GS, and more. Many societies are presenting one or two webinars a month, free at the time they are presented. Handouts are only available to active members. Memberships range from \$40-75 per year.

This should give you a great start on watching a webinar or more while we're still on self-isolation and before we start showing webinars at our Library, or put our meetings online!

**BCGS GENEALOGY CHATS - MOST ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**Coffee Chats at the BCGS Genealogical Library**

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  
 May 9 & June 13 **via Zoom**  
 10 am to noon  
 With Linda Maitland  
[lindamaitland@telus.net](mailto:lindamaitland@telus.net)



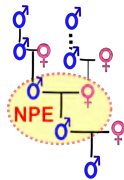
**EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY**

2nd Saturday of each month, 1 to 3 pm  
 Next chat TBA  
 With Sharon Clayton  
 Please pre-register [sharonjmclayton@gmail.com](mailto:sharonjmclayton@gmail.com)



**EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY**

**Parental Puzzles (NPE)**  
 3rd Monday of most months, 1 to 3 pm  
 Next chat TBA  
 With Sharon Clayton  
[sharonjmclayton@gmail.com](mailto:sharonjmclayton@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](mailto:sharonjmclayton@gmail.com)



**BC GENEALOGY CHAT**

Next chat TBA  
 With Janet White  
[jwhite@telus.net](mailto:jwhite@telus.net)



**MAC/REUNION GROUP**

3rd Wednesday of most months, 2 to 4 pm  
 Next chat TBA  
 With Bill Clayton  
[weclayton45@gmail.com](mailto:weclayton45@gmail.com)



**SOFTWARE for GENEALOGY**

Next chat TBA  
 With Angus Glass  
[liliardsedge@aol.com](mailto:liliardsedge@aol.com)



**SCOTLAND GENEALOGY CHAT**

Next chat TBA  
 With Lorriane Irving  
[lorraine.irving42@gmail.com](mailto:lorraine.irving42@gmail.com)



**ENGLAND GENEALOGY CHAT**

Next chat TBA  
 With Rob Whitlock  
[robw.whitlock@gmail.com](mailto:robw.whitlock@gmail.com)



**IRELAND GENEALOGY CHAT**

Next chat TBA  
 With Eunice Robinson  
[eunice@genbug.ca](mailto:eunice@genbug.ca)



**ATLANTIC GENEALOGY CHAT**

Next chat TBA  
 With Keith MacNutt  
[jkeithmacnutt@gmail.com](mailto:jkeithmacnutt@gmail.com)



**ONTARIO GENEALOGY CHAT**

Next chat TBA  
 With Janet White  
[jwhite@telus.net](mailto:jwhite@telus.net)



**PLANNING A TRIP TO SALT LAKE CITY**

Next chat TBA  
 With Eunice Robinson  
[eunice@genbug.ca](mailto:eunice@genbug.ca)





**Quebec Questers meet via Zoom**

The Quebec Questers group wasn't going to let a little thing like Covid-19 interfere with their monthly genealogy get-together. They met at their regular time via Zoom to discuss their progress, successes, brickwalls, and to ask the group for advice. As you can see, a good time was had by all, each in their own homes.



**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  
With the Vancouver Welsh Society  
215 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver  
(Downstairs, enter from the back of the building)  
[csmlythe@telus.net](mailto:csmlythe@telus.net)



**Postponed until further notice**



**NEW CHAT STARTING this MONTH via ZOOM**

**CHINESE GENEALOGY 101 CHAT**

1st Thursday of the month, 10 - 11 am

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

Via Zoom - email Linda at [hello@past-presence.com](mailto:hello@past-presence.com) and she'll send you an invitation

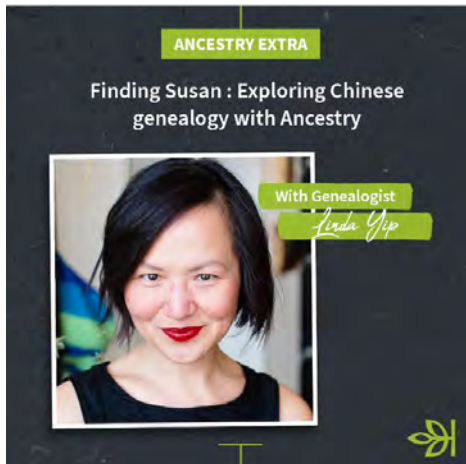
Are you new to Chinese genealogy and don't know where to start? Or have you been doing your family genealogy for a while and are stuck?



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.

# BCGS NEWS

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



## LINDA YIP, BCGS member #5644

### ANCESTRY WEBINAR

Linda was invited to present a webinar on Ancestry, April 21st. As the advertisement states, Linda specializes in Chinese genealogy research. And you don't need to speak Chinese. Our President, Bill Clayton, made a point of watching the presentation and commented that it is a very complex subject, but well-researched and presented.

Linda is starting a Chinese Genealogy 101 Chat via Zoom on the first Thursdays of the month starting this month on May 7. See page 13 for more information.

See more of Linda's research and expertise on her website at <https://past-presence.com/>

## SAVE THOSE PULL TABS and CANS!

**UPDATE from Bill Clayton: I just came back from the recycling store with \$51.45 for the ALM Fund, bringing our total to \$106.30 so far this year.**

The BCGS is raising extra funds by collecting the pull tabs from soft drink cans and beer cans as well as the pop cans and beer cans themselves.

Please keep collecting during the Covid-19 lockdown.

The Society will be happy to receive your aluminum cans and pull tabs (together or separately) at the library in Surrey, during the hours it's open or at any of our monthly BCGS meetings in Burnaby. Each donated tab or can makes a difference to our BCGS budget.



**To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this event has been POSTPONED. It will be rescheduled at a later date.**





## **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, several of these projects can easily be done at home.**

**FACILITY MAINTENANCE TEAM LEADER - Needed** - A handy-person with hands-on experience to maintain, fix, renovate and improve the interior of our library. Must be a team player as well as a leader. Contact Bill Clayton at [weclayton45@gmail.com](mailto:weclayton45@gmail.com)

**BCGS VOLUNTEER NEEDED for SHORT TERM PROJECT** - BCGS is looking for a volunteer to set up a "Return It Express" group account for the society. The account would allow members to donate bottles, etc returned to "Return It" centres to the benefit of BCGS. Can you do this small project for BCGS? Contact Bill Clayton at [weclayton45@gmail.com](mailto:weclayton45@gmail.com)

**LIBRARY VOLUNTEER** - A volunteer is needed for the morning shift (10 am to 12:30) for the third Tuesday of each month. Please contact Corrine Jubb at [library@bcgs.ca](mailto:library@bcgs.ca)

**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](mailto:ibbotsonab@gmail.com)

**BOOK INDEXING PROJECT - Work can easily be done at home.** More indexers are needed. Indexing is done on an Excel spreadsheet but no experience is necessary. Jacqueline Penney will be happy to teach those who would like to help out. Please contact Jacqueline at [jmpenney@me.com](mailto:jmpenney@me.com)

**PIONEER REGISTRY - THE NEXT WAVE - Project Update**  
Thanks to the members who are submitting their information to the Pioneer Registry – the Next Wave. If you are interested in submitting your pioneers, email Eunice Robinson at [eunice@genbug.ca](mailto:eunice@genbug.ca) and she will send you the form.

**50th ANNIVERSARY BOOK** - In 2021, the BCGS will be celebrating its 50th anniversary and volunteers are needed to work on the anniversary book. Please contact Eunice Robinson at [eunice@genbug.ca](mailto:eunice@genbug.ca)

**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](mailto:melissa_n_cecil@hotmail.com) and we will get you the name of a soldier and the info you need to get started.



**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/bcgsgdiscussion>

## INDEXERS NEEDED

I know that it is hard for a genealogist to be bored but if you are... you might like to help with the Newspaper Indexing Project. Corrine Jubb has been indexing the newspaper clippings of birth, marriage, death and other life events for many years. She has 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.

In mid-April, we used Facebook to ask for help and about 15 people came forward. It was interesting that not all people were members of BCGS. They came from all over. To-date we have already indexed almost 100 pages of The Vancouver Sun 2002. The index is done on Google Sheets or on Excel spreadsheets. It looks like this:

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L
	SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	BD	BP	MD	MP	DD	DP	PAPER	DATE	CEMETERY	Photo ID
47	ORR	Clinton Stewart	Dec 29 1912	New Brunswick			Jan 18 2002	Vancouver	Vancouver Sun	Jan 25 2002		VS2002Jan26
48	PRINGLE	Edith Godley [Armstrong]	Jul 30 1906	Belfast, N. Ireland			Jan 21 2002	Victoria	Vancouver Sun	Jan 25 2002		VS2002Jan26
49	ROSS	Frederick Donald (Don)	1930				Jan 21 2002	Brackendale	Vancouver Sun	Jan 25 2002		VS2002Jan26
50	SHORE	Margaret Rachael [Land]	1941				Jan 24 2002		Vancouver Sun	Jan 25 2002		VS2002Jan26
51	STRANG	Verna Winfield (Betty) [Smith]	Mar 19 1921	Camrose, AB			Jan 20 2002	West Vancouver	Vancouver Sun	Jan 25 2002		VS2002Jan26
52	STRANG	Andrew - see Verna Winfield					Aug. 2000		Vancouver Sun	Jan 25 2002		VS2002Jan26
53	TERRY	Simon					Jan 23 2002		Vancouver Sun	Jan 25 2002		VS2002Jan26
54	TREGER	Irene	1916				Jan 9 2002		Vancouver Sun	Jan 25 2002		VS2002Jan26
55												

If you are interested, please contact [queryrequest@bcgs.ca](mailto:queryrequest@bcgs.ca). Ann Buchanan, team coordinator for BC Research, will send you a kit with instructions. You only need to be able to read and type. I promise you that you will find this project fun!

## OBITUARIES

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

### GEORGE GORDON ANDERSON

1928 - 2020

BCGS Life Member #3198



The BCGS recently received the following correspondence from George's daughter, Beverly Anderson:

I wish to inform you that my father, George Anderson, passed away at the age of 91, on Wednesday, April 8, 2020 at the George Derby Centre. Dad enjoyed many years with the BC Genealogical Society, attending meetings and workshops, collecting information from local cemeteries, working to fund and contribute to the library in Surrey and taking research trips to Salt Lake City. I believe he was a life member of the Society. Thank you for your friendship with him.

His obituary appeared in the Friday, April 24, 2020 edition of the Vancouver Sun/Province.

<https://vancouver.sunandprovince.remembering.ca/obituary/george-anderson-1079056271>





# BCGS 2020 CALENDAR - APRIL

## HOTEL VANCOUVER

Photos: courtesy: City of Vancouver Archives. Photo construction: George Caldwell, written commentary: Sharon Clayton



First Hotel Vancouver  
Image courtesy City of Vancouver Archives  
Item: Hot P36

The history of Hotel Vancouver dates back to 1888, when the Canadian Pacific Railroad opened a 60 room hotel in a 5 storey brick building on the south-west corner of Georgia and Granville. Although just steps away from the Granville Street railway station, the hotel was surrounded by forests and brush, and deemed "out of the way" because it was so far from bustling Gastown. Expanded in 1893 and 1904 to more than 200 rooms, the hotel was demolished to make way for a larger and more ornate building.

In 1916, the second Hotel Vancouver opened at the same location. Its handsome Italianate Revival architecture encased 700 lavish rooms that featured marble sinks and gold-plated hardware. This Hotel Vancouver was known as one of the British Empire's grandest hotels.

In the 1930s, the Vancouver branch of the United Empire Loyalist Association of Canada used the hotel to host its first meetings and banquets.



Hotel Vancouver - 900 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC  
Image courtesy Vancouver Archives  
Item: CVA 586-4620



Second Hotel Vancouver  
Image courtesy City of Vancouver Archives  
Item: CVA65-2

During WWII, the hotel was used as an army barracks. In January 1946, 35 repatriated veterans claimed the vacant hotel for veterans' housing. It eventually housed more than 1,000 veterans. The building was torn down in 1949.

The Canadian National Railway began construction of what would become the third Hotel Vancouver in 1928. The Great Depression halted the project until 1937 when, as a public works project that was aimed to pull the city out of its financial doldrums, construction was restarted.

King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were the hotel's inaugural guests after they officially opened the third Hotel Vancouver on May 25 1939.

Canada's "King of Swing" Dal Richards was only 22 when his big band orchestra played the Hotel Vancouver's "Panorama Roof" for the first time on April 26, 1940. His gig famously lasted for 25 years.



**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, it is impossible to speculate on where the world will be in 2021 with the current pandemic; 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 Celebrating its 147<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
with Sales Promotion Gift Cards**



**Must be purchased in a single transaction by May 31, 2020  
Expiry date is December 31, 2020**

\$100 US will be added to the value of \$500 US gift cards.

\$200 US will be added to the value of cards worth \$1,000 US or more.

Because it is impossible to predict a post Covid-19 future, the BCGS Board of Directors and Cruise Team are optimistic though that our Alaska cruise will proceed as scheduled.

Those with reserved bookings for our 2021 Alaska cruise can apply the 147<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gift cards (with their bonus dollars) toward their cruise balances.

**Remember that our cruise is fully refundable, including our deposits, until June 14, 2021.**

For more information about the 147<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gift Cards  
contact Robert Marcoux  
604-401-0484  
[robert@getawaywithcompass.ca](mailto:robert@getawaywithcompass.ca)



# GENEALOGY NEWS in BC

Upcoming events and new genealogical resources in BC



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



## A note from Vancouver Public Library

### Ancestry Library Edition

[www.vpl.ca](http://www.vpl.ca)

New! VPL cardholders can now enjoy access to Ancestry Library Edition from home for free until the end of **May 31, 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

23 April 2020

Hello everyone,

Just an update from us here at Surrey Libraries Family History:

**Free access** for you from home to our library **Ancestry** account has been kindly extended to **May 31, 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>

Our Family History email reference/look-up service is now suspended until the library re-opens (and we return to work). Thank you to everyone who sent in messages for our expanded service offer. We had over 80!

Updates to the above, and about library re-opening, 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, and we look forward to being "back in business" soon!

Regards,

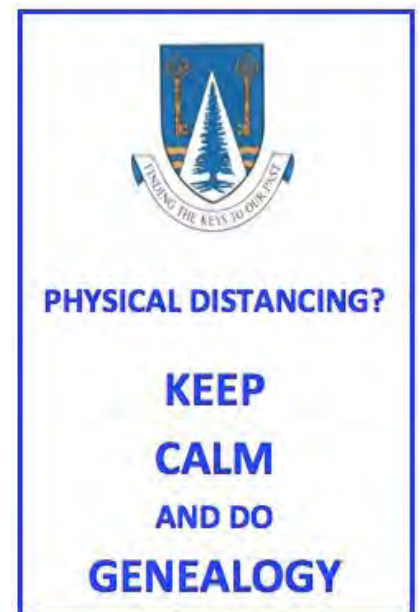
Carmen

Carmen Merrells | Information Services Librarian

Surrey Libraries Family History

Cloverdale Branch

[familyhistory@surrey.ca](mailto:familyhistory@surrey.ca)





## GENEALOGY NEWS in BC, cont'd

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### British Columbia Ancestors: Naturalization Records on Family Search

*Snipped from Candice McDonald's blog, Finding Your Canadian Story, 19 April 2020*

[https://findingyourcanadianstory.blogspot.com/2020/04/british-columbia-ancestors.html?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Feed%3A+FindingYourCanadianStory+%28Finding+Your+Canadian+Story%29](https://findingyourcanadianstory.blogspot.com/2020/04/british-columbia-ancestors.html?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+FindingYourCanadianStory+%28Finding+Your+Canadian+Story%29)

Naturalization records can be a valuable brick wall buster. These records often tell country of origin and immigration details that may not be found in other records. The naturalization process applied to immigrants that did not come from the UK. Our UK ancestors were automatically considered Canadian citizens.

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## GENEALOGY NEWS in CANADA

*Upcoming events and new genealogical resources in Canada*

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### Canadiana Online and Héritage websites redesigned

*Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 1 April 2020*

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=31533>

The Canadian Research Knowledge Network (CRKN) announced Monday the launch of redesigned websites for Canadiana Online and Héritage. The new web designs feature an updated look, while maintaining the same site layout and functionality. Researchers can browse, search, and download content as before. In addition, the designs feature highlights of images and text from the collections, as well as Canadiana's new logo and colour palette of green and teal. All of the content on Canadiana Online and Héritage is free.

### Finding Loyalists Claims Online

*Snipped from Ken McKinlay's blog, on Family Tree Knot, 31 March 2020*

<https://familytreeknots.blogspot.com/2020/03/finding-loyalists-claims-online.html>

Back in 2014 I wrote a post about Online Resources for Your Loyalist Research Project and in several of my other posts I've touched upon using land records to help you in your genealogy research. Recently I came across this query in the United Empire Loyalists Association (UELAC) Facebook group and decided to see what I could find using just online resources since, with COVID-19 restrictions, brick and mortar archives and libraries are pretty much off limits. I'm also going to look at other sources of information to see what also can be uncovered.

### Almost 4,000 historical Canadian newspaper links on The Ancestor Hunt

*Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 22 April 2020*

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=31791>

Kenneth R. Marks' website, [The Ancestor Hunt](#), should be in every genealogist's research tool box.

During the past month, Mr. Marks has added more than 650 newspaper titles to his list of links to free online [historical Canadian newspapers](#). His Canadian newspaper list now has about 3,970 titles.

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# DNA GENEALOGY NEWS

Some web links to help with genetic genealogy research

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## Use WATO to Explore DNA Match Relationships

*Snipped from Diahan Southard's blog, Your DNA Guide, 26 March 2020*

<https://www.yourdnaguide.com/ydgblog/2020/3/26/wato-what-are-the-odds>

Not sure how you are related to your DNA match? Use the free “What Are the Odds?” tool at DNA Painter to explore the possibilities and to help build a more accurate family tree.

## Triangulation in Action at DNAPainter

*Snipped from Roberta Estes' blog, DNAexplained -- Genetic Genealogy, 1 April 2020*

<https://dna-explained.com/2020/04/01/triangulation-in-action-at-dnapainter/>

This article, and the rest in the “Triangulation in Action” series introduces triangulation at [FamilyTreeDNA](#), [MyHeritage](#), [23andMe](#), [GedMatch](#) and [DNAPainter](#), explaining how to use triangulation to confirm descent from a common ancestor.

## DNA in a time of crisis

*Snipped from Judy Russell's blog, The Legal Genealogist, 5 April 2020*

<https://www.legalgenealogist.com/2020/04/05/dna-in-a-time-of-crisis/>

Name a DNA beneficiary - These are tough times, no doubt about it. And so The Legal Genealogist has to raise a tough question: are you ready if the worst happens with respect to any DNA test you've taken or where you manage the results? Do you — and your testers — have an estate plan to cover what will happen to your test results and any remaining sample?

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# GENEALOGY SEMINARS & MEETINGS NEAR & FAR

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

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## FINDING YOUR ROOTS CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 2020

To help limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus, this event has been **CANCELLED**.

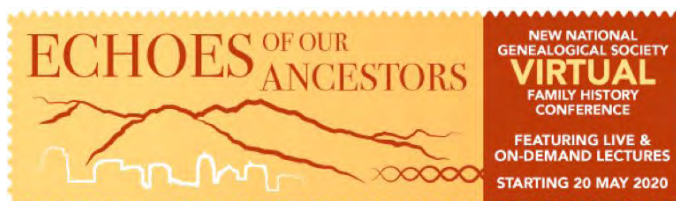


## National Genealogical Society conference to go virtual

*Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 17 April 2020*

<https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=31733>

Due to the continuing spread of COVID-19 and concern for the health and safety of all those involved in our 2020 Family History Conference, the National Genealogical Society (NGS) has changed its in-person conference to a virtual conference.

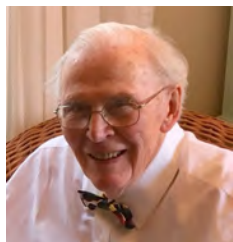


The conference was scheduled to be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, May 20 to 23. NGS is now developing a virtual conference that is a mixture of live and on-demand programming. A full day of NGS 2020 Live! is planned for Wednesday, May 20, from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Eastern time. In addition, streaming access to many more sessions will be available starting in July.

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# MEMBERS' CORNER

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



## Charles Brumwell

submitted by  
Judith Ueland, member 4913

### Last Vignettes on the Farm Years

*NOTE from Judith Ueland: Charles Brumwell is my granddaughter's great-uncle and is known to us as "Uncle Charles". He grew up on a farm in Alberta, which was situated seven miles NE of Vauxhall across the Bow River from Brooks and about 40-50 miles from Lethbridge. This is one of the stories he has written about life on the farm during our "self-isolating" time due to Covid 19.*

From the time of my birth until I started school in grade one, I was called "Junior" named after my dad, Alexander - as in Alex junior. Junior was what I answered to and I guess I thought it was my proper name, not just a family one. When my mother took me to register in grade one and she was asked for my full name, she replied his name is Alexander Charles. Apparently, I erupted into a melt-down, demanding to have my "own" name. So Charles Alexander made his appearance. My brothers called me "Chuck" and their kids do so to this day - "Uncle Chuck". Later in school, I became Charlie.



In the 1930s, my dad was a keen supporter of the Calgary Stampede, which was an Alberta yearly celebration attended by people far and

wide. As kids, we looked forward to all the events and especially the Cowboys and Indians. Groups of bulls and horses were herded to the site from various farms and ranches as participants. It was a fairly rowdy event.

*Above: Charles's sister, Jean, with their neighbour's prize Black Angus bull*

I think we went to the last one before the war in 1939 or 1940. I don't think it was held during the war.

I remember there was a windshield sticker advertising the Stampede on the last trip. Churchill had just made his famous speech in forecasting the dark days to come. He concluded, "We are sure at the end all will be well". Large numbers of windshield stickers were issued with this slogan to try and allay public anxiety. My dad put this sticker under the stampede one as a joke intimating that Churchill was referring to the rowdy stampede.

There was a Royal Visit by the King and Queen to Canada just before the war, I suppose to promote patriotism to prepare for the coming conflict. We were



all bundled up and taken to Calgary to view them as they stopped on the train doing their cross country journey. The station platform was packed as the train rolled slowly by with the King standing alone on the back deck of the last car in view and holding what

looked like a movie camera. Just as he was approaching us waving our little Union Jack flags, he suddenly wheeled around and disappeared into the car. So we just saw where he had been standing. Hail Britannia!

*Other stories can be found on his blog: [https://cbrumwell.wixsite.com/charlieb/THE QUARANTINIAN](https://cbrumwell.wixsite.com/charlieb/THE_QUARANTINIAN) STORIES FROM AN 88 YEAR-OLD SELF-ISOLATING SENIOR*





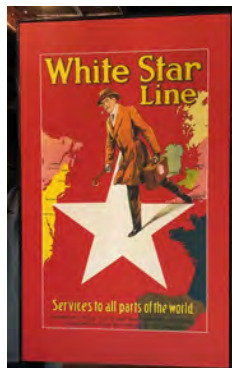
**Meg McLaughlin, member #3847**

**Restricted to Armchair Travel**

Lately there are some days that I feel like I am glued to my computer. It is my window to the world and I can't imagine life without an internet connection right now. Webinars have become a regular viewing staple but more are being offered gratis all the time as we are confined to home. I think I even have the hang of Zoom meetings now although I wonder where the Zoom enhance appearance button is that people talk about. But none of that quite makes up for all the in-person events that keep being cancelled or altered so that we can watch from home. We are now watchers instead of participants and what of plans for on the ground research?

As the weeks passed, I watched my planned September trip became ever more doubtful. At the beginning of the year, I had worked on Nova Scotia research that took me back to Scotland in anticipation of visiting archives in person while in the UK. Now it looks like international travel will not be possible for a lot longer than I first thought.

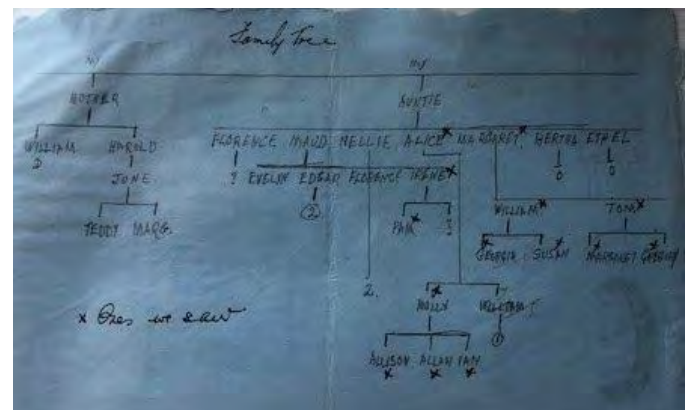
As Scottish research became less pressing and future travel became more remote, I thought of trips I knew my family had taken. There were, of course, the immigration trips. From talking to other genealogists, I think my family has more than their fair share of those. But I'm thinking more of my grandparents who went back and forth between England and Canada a surprising amount of times, although maybe I should have expected it given that my grandfather worked for the White Star Line when he lived in Winnipeg.



Was a need to travel in his DNA? He and my grandmother capped things off by taking an around the world cruise in 1955.

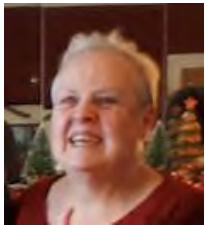
From what I can tell, their itinerary was similar in part to the one in "The Grand Tour: Around the World with the Queen of Mystery" based on Agatha Christie's letters while on tour in the 1920s which I can use as a source. Not too much would have changed in the world of cruising between those two eras.

Even better, I have my grandfather's travel diary (right) with its cryptic notes and photos tucked between its pages. Yes, there is writing on the back of the photos, such as it is. So, I have clues to find out more about their journey. But it is their time in Australia which interests me most. While there, my grandfather met up with family and sent a letter to his daughter with a rudimentary family tree (see photo below). Between that information and the few photos that feature family, I now have more family history to uncover. Perhaps travelling virtually to Australia through my research will make up for the real travel that is currently impossible.



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.

**FOCUS ON AN ANCESTOR** - *We all have favourite ancestors, ancestors whom we've just discovered, or ancestors about whom we have just learned something new. Send us a story about your ancestor - 500 words or less with a photo or two.*



**Kathleen Graham, member #5735**

**Abraham Martin dit l'Écossais**

We would like to introduce **Abraham Martin** who has direct links to several members of our Quebec Questers BCGS interest group:

8x great-grandfather to Kathleen Gratton Graham

9x great-grandfather to Marianne Côté-Malley

10x great-grandfather to Jim Graham

11x great-grandfather to Linda Maitland

Abraham Martin was born about 1589 and buried on September 8, 1664 at Notre-Dame Basilique, Quebec City. He was commonly called "the Scot" or, as they say in French "l'Écossais". There are many theories about this "dit" name or nickname. We do not know if he was born in Scotland, which would explain the nickname, or possibly France. Some suggest he sailed to Scotland several times and knew Scots. Others posit that he or his father left Scotland in the Gaelic force for the King of France. One individual suggests that his father was loyal



to Mary Queen of Scots. There are almost as many suggestions as there are investigators!

We do know that Abraham Martin and his wife Marguerite Langlois immigrated to New France between 1619 and 1621 and they were one of the first three families in New

France to receive land grants. They definitely arrived before the baptism of their son Eustache on October 24, 1621 in Québec City. According to church records,

Eustache was the first child of immigrants to be baptized in New France.

Abraham has been called Canada's first pilot. The family was inextricably woven into early Canadian history. Samuel de Champlain was a godfather to their daughter Hélène. She later married the explorer Médard Court Desgroseilliers who, alongside his brother-in-law Pierre-Esprit Radisson, convinced the English King Charles II to grant the 1670 charter for the Hudson's Bay Company.

Ironically, Abraham's most known contribution occurred 105 years after his death. Wilson (2013) wrote, "The land had belonged to Abraham Martin, a navigator known as the king's pilot who knew the river waters well for he had frequently fished there and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence. In 1635, in return for his services, Martin had been granted 12 acres on the outskirts of Quebec and ten years later received an additional 20 acres as a gift. In 1667, Abraham sold the land to the Ursulines religious order. Chance had chosen this rustic spot, this peaceful patch of a farmer's field, which became...a giant stage on which the fortunes of war would decide the fate of two nations." That land is known to this day as The Plains of Abraham! The battle on those fields was a seminal moment for the fate of New France and the future of Canada.



*Picture of Abraham Martin is an artist's rendition by Charles Huot 1908, from William R. Wilson, (2013) Historical Narratives of Early Canada. "Abraham Martin's Farm".*



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

## **BCGS EVENTS**

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

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May 7	Chinese Genealogy 101 - via Zoom - 10 to 11 am
May 9	Quebec Questers Chat - via Zoom - 10 am to noon
May 13	BCGS Members Meeting - via Zoom - 7:30 pm
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

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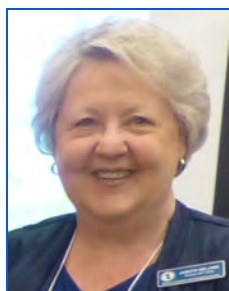


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Suggestions and comments are welcome. Please contact Judith Ueland and Linda Maitland at [newsletter@bcgs.ca](mailto:newsletter@bcgs.ca)

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### **BCGS NEWSLETTER CO-EDITORS**



**Judith Ueland**  
Vice-President



**Linda Maitland**  
Director (2023)

### **BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY**

Open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 - 3 pm  
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12837 76 Avenue, Unit 211  
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604-502-9119

### **BCGS MAILING ADDRESS**

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