



BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGY NEWS - ABOUT OUR MEMBERS - FOR OUR MEMBERS

May 1, 2021

Volume 6, Issue 5



SECOND SESSION

**BCGS 50TH ANNIVERSARY
SEMINAR SERIES**

JANICE NICKERSON

SATURDAY, MAY 1, 2021

**A SATURDAY MORNING ZOOM EXPERIENCE
with Janice Nickerson, professional genealogist
specializing in Upper Canada**

Register at the British Columbia Genealogical Society [website](#)

See page 3 for the series information about times and topics



THE NEXT BCGS MEMBERS' MEETING

will take place on

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

See page 12 for details

MARLENE DANCE

THE UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS

THIS IS THEIR STORY

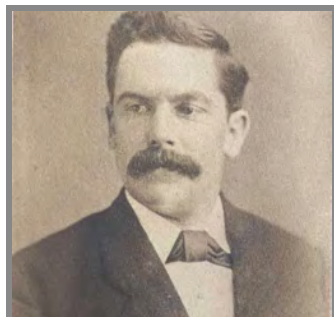
IN THIS ISSUE



**50th Anniversary Seminar
SECOND SESSION with
JANICE NICKERSON
Pages 1 & 4**



**BCGS MEMBERS MAY 12 MEETING
SPEAKER – MARLENE DANCE
The United Empire Loyalists
Page 11**



**JUMBO the ELEPHANT &
George Phipps – Engineer
Page 28**

BCGS SEMINAR 50TH ANNIVERSARY with JANICE NICKERSON	p. 1
BCGS MAY MEMBERS' MEETING via ZOOM	p. 1
IN THIS ISSUE - Index	p. 2
BCGS NEWSLETTER - NEW EDITORS	p. 3
SEMINAR PRESENTERS - HAPPY 50th ANNIVERSARY to the BCGS	p. 4
- 2nd Session with Janice Nickerson	p. 4
- Lucille Campey - 3rd Session, Dave Obee - 1st Session Review	p. 5
BCGS PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Eunice Robinson	p. 6
- United Empire Loyalists' News	p. 6
BCGS APRIL POSTER - June Gauntley - Deep Cove, BC	p. 7
MESSAGE from the BCGS WEBSITE TEAM	p. 8
MESSAGE from the BCGS eJOURNAL EDITOR - Lynne Fletcher	p. 9
MEMBERSHIP 2021 - New Members - BC Research Team	p. 9
POSTCARD OF THE MONTH - Janice Kidwell - Abode Island, West Vancouver	p. 10
BCGS MEMBERS' MEETINGS - May 12th - Meeting Information	p. 11
- Presenter - Marlene Dance - United Empire Loyalists	p. 11
- June 2021 - Speaker - Jeannie Vance - FamilySearch	p. 11
LOOKING BACK AT THE APRIL MEMBERS' MEETING	p. 12
- Request to our Members to Use Their Membership Number	p. 13
- BCGS Facebook Pages - Main Page & Discussion Group	p. 15
- Compliments from our Readers	p. 15
- March Meeting Presentation Review - Ralph Drew	p. 16
BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY - Library CLOSED - Reopening TBA	p. 17
- News from the Stacks - Corrine Jubb/FamilySearch Affiliate Library	p. 17
- BCGS Genealogy Chats - Meetings via Zoom	p. 18
- New Genealogy Chat starting - Advanced DNA	p. 19
- BCGS - Fundraising - Pop Cans & Bottles - Board Room Upgrades	p. 19
BCGS NEWS - Volunteer Opportunities	p. 20
- Holten Canadian Cemetery Project Update - BIHS Newsletter	p. 20
- Education - North Vancouver & New Westminster Libraries	p. 20
- 50th Anniversary Alaska Cruise - Update	p. 21
- Genealogy Seminars & Webinars & Workshops	p. 21
- 2021 Calendar - 1971 - 50 Years Ago - Georama Growers, Nelson BC	p. 22
GENEALOGY NEWS IN BC	p. 23
- Photo Detective Seminar - BCGS with Cloverdale Library & Museum	p. 23
- Surrey Libraries Family History Program - Van Public Library Update	p. 24
- University Ancestors - The University of British Columbia Handbook	p. 25
- Corrigenda - Patricia Skidmore - Marjorie: Too Afraid to Cry	p. 25
MEMBERS' CORNER	p. 26
- Patrick Keily - As I Recollect - Distilled Wisdom	p. 26
- Meg McLaughlin - Clues in Local History	p. 27
- Susan Sullivan - My Most Inspirational Mother	p. 28
- Linda Maitland - Jumbo and the Grand Trunk Railroad Engineer	p. 29
MARK YOUR CALENDAR, BCGS Newsletter & BCGS Contact Information	p. 31

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

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

We'd love to hear from you! Please share your ongoing research, your personal searches, your exciting successes, your frustrating challenges, your research trip, your discoveries, how you broke down that brick wall, found a long lost relative, 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.





Judith and Linda are retiring!

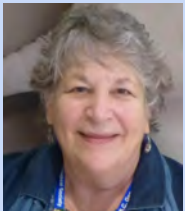
MEET OUR NEW EDITORS

The Newsletter is the Society's way of contacting our members and reaching out to beginner, intermediate and advanced researchers who are looking for ideas and information. Many members already participate by contributing a monthly column or volunteer within the society and send us their reports. It is a very well-received publication. We use Google Docs, a web-based word processor, and preparation of the Newsletter can be done at home. It is a living, evolving document. Our new editors can, of course, make changes in content and formatting as needed/wanted.



Editor-in-Chief - SUSAN SULLIVAN, member #4887

Sue has offered to take on the primary role of BCGS Newsletter Editor as of May 2, 2021. She has previous experience with this type of publication, winning a newsletter contest in design school. At her studio job in Ottawa, she was the newsletter person and helped the studio win more contracts. She says, "I like establishing patterns". As a member of the BCGS, she has produced slide shows and poster boards for various events in which the BCGS has participated and most recently worked with Sharon Clayton on the production of the BCGS 50th Anniversary Calendar.



BCGS and BC News Editor - SHARON CLAYTON, member #5332

Sharon is well known to the BCGS membership. She has written a number of articles for the newsletter over the years and has participated with many of the society's committees. Most recently she is the Chair of our 50th Anniversary Cruise project and has been instrumental in the production of our 2020 and 2021 Anniversary Calendars.



Events and Education Editor - JAN GRAF, member #5382

Jan is new to the BCGS Board of Directors and is the Society Secretary. She is a member of the Pioneer Registry Team and the BCGS Handbook & Society Timeline team as well as the Website team. Jan is keeping the BCGS Genealogy Coffee Chats schedule up-to-date and will be responsible for the New Members section and the Mark Your Calendar - BCGS Events page.

Judith Ueland and Linda Maitland would like to welcome these three ladies above to the Newsletter Team. It has been our pleasure to develop this new method of communication for the BCGS and we have enjoyed learning many new aspects of various platforms over the years. Our five year term finishes as of May 1st, 2021 and so we must hand on the June 1st edition. We wish the new editors well and look forward to a 'new' Newsletter.

There are many facets to the Newsletter and for those who would like to contribute, we would be happy to hear from you. Contact us with any and all questions at Newsletter@bcgs.ca.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO US!

1971 to 2021 - 50 YEARS

We are marking our 50th anniversary with several special events. Plans include an online seminar over three separate Saturdays with renowned speakers, the Alaska cruise now scheduled for September 2022, the BCGS 50th anniversary e-book of our second quarter century, and, of course, our 2021 BC celebration calendar. Watch for the Page of the Month highlighting events during 1971.



BCGS SEMINAR SERIES - CELEBRATING THE BCGS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

In lieu of a one day seminar, we are offering three morning seminars with well-known genealogists and presenters

Dave Obee, Janice Nickerson and Lucille Campey.

These seminars are being held via **Zoom**.

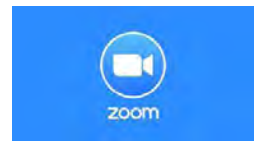
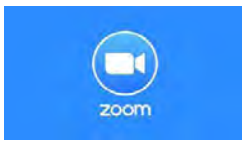
They are free to BCGS members, but are \$25.00 for all three seminars to non-members.

REGISTER on our [WEBSITE](#)

Saturday, April 3 – Dave Obee – 9:30 am to 12:30

Saturday, May 1 – Janice Nickerson – 9:30 am to 12:30

Saturday, June 5 – Lucille Campey – 9:30 am to 12:30



BCGS 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR - PRESENTERS



JANICE NICKERSON - Saturday, May 1, 2021 - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Janice Nickerson is a professional genealogist who specializes in Upper Canadian history. She provided behind-the-scenes research for the CBC television program, *Who Do You Think You Are?* and is a regular contributor to *Family Chronicle*, *Internet Genealogy*, and *Your Family Tree* magazines. As well, Janice lectures to groups throughout Ontario. She is a proud 8th generation Canadian with English, German, Irish, Welsh and Aboriginal ancestry. Her topics for this seminar:

Your Ancestors in the Upper Canadian Justice System - Family historians are always seeking records that will help us tell the story of our ancestors' lives. We want more than just names, dates and places. But few of us make use of the rich trove of stories found in justice system records. Upper Canada was such a small society, most of our ancestors were "known to the court". Were your ancestors criminals? Were they victims of crime? Did they sit on a jury or testify at a trial? Maybe they couldn't pay their debts and got sent to debtors' prison.

Early Ontario Research - So you traced your family's history back to an ancestor who lived in Ontario (or its predecessors, Canada West and Upper Canada) before civil registration. Now what? This lecture provides an overview of the six key record groups for pre-civil registration research, what information you can expect to find, and where you'll find it.



LUCILLE CAMPEY - Saturday, June 5, 2021 - 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

Lucille H. Campey was born in Ottawa. A professional researcher and historian, she has a master's degree in medieval history from Leeds University and a Ph.D. from Aberdeen University in emigration history. She is the author of eighteen books on early Scottish, English, and Irish emigration to Canada. She was the recipient of the 2016 Prix du Québec for her work researching Irish emigration to Canada. She lives near Salisbury in Wiltshire, England. Her topics for this seminar:

Canada's Irish Pioneers

As pioneers, the Irish bestrode Canada. They were the largest immigrant group during Canada's formative years. They dug its canals, built its roads, chopped down its trees and established many of its early farming communities. They were ambitious, self-funded people with big dreams who were desperate to escape from the poverty in their homeland. And yet, despite their great pioneering successes, some politically-motivated people continue to depict them as sad and helpless exiles.

British Customs Records and Other Government Sources

These records and sources can assist family historians in locating their ancestors. Although census returns, customs records and the British Parliamentary Papers may seem like unlikely sources to use in tracking down a British ancestor who immigrated to Canada, they do hold nuggets of data that can provide vital clues. The talk will demonstrate how such sources can sometimes reveal the geographical origins of immigrants and/or their places of settlement in Canada. This can be achieved by analyzing numeric data rather than hunting down a particular surname.



SEMINAR REVIEW

**THE BCGS 50TH ANNIVERSARY SEMINAR SERIES
FIRST SESSION by DAVE OBBE**

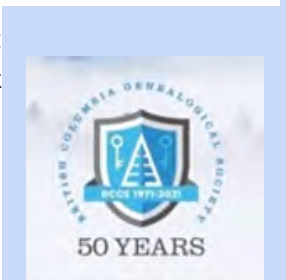
To celebrate our 50th Anniversary, we were looking to put on a big event but the ongoing pandemic threw a monkey wrench into those plans. Still, we wanted to mark this significant achievement. So instead of one big event, we have planned a series of Saturday Zoom seminars featuring well known and respected family historians and presenters.

Our first seminar in this series was on Saturday, April 3rd when we were very pleased to bring Dave Obee to our members. As an award winning journalist, genealogical researcher, and historian, Dave brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to his audiences. His two talks enthralled the participants as he gave us ideas, suggestions and a vast list of websites and resources for us all to investigate. As one member commented, "There aren't enough hours in the day, but I'm sure going to try!"

Dave presented two talks: *Looking Forward, Looking Back* and *Beyond the Online Basics*. It was a wonderful morning, and too soon over. On behalf of the BCGS, we would like to thank Dave so very much for starting our seminar series off with such an enjoyable morning and giving us all some much needed inspiration.

For more about Dave, see [Dave Obee's website](#) and [CanGenealogy](#).

Eunice Robinson, BCGS Education Chair



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Eunice Robinson, BCGS President, president@bcgs.ca

I hope you have all been able to receive your first Covid vaccines, but it looks like we will still have to hunker down for a few more months.

However, staying at home has given us some wonderful opportunities to take in some of the many webinars being offered. The first in our *BCGS 50th Anniversary Seminars*, held on April 3rd, and featuring **Dave Obee** was a great success. Hope you are signed up for the next two – with **Janice Nickerson** and **Lucille Campey**.

At our April meeting, we enjoyed the presentation by **Ralph Drew** on the history of Coquitlam. Our various Coffee Chats via Zoom have been very well attended. A new Coffee Chat is starting in May – *Advanced DNA*, so look on the Coffee Chat page in this newsletter for more information.

Our **library** is still closed to researchers, but there is work going on by a few **volunteers**. Several members are down-

sizing their collections and donating these materials to our library. As a result, our **Catalogue Team** is busy adding these to our database.

We have done some reassignment of furniture and soon our growing **postcard collection** will migrate from Janice Kidwell's home bookshelf to a file cabinet in the library. Janice reports she has over 1,200 postcards.

The BCGS is co-sponsoring a seminar featuring **Maureen Taylor**, the Photo Detective, along with the Cloverdale Library and the Surrey Museum. Further information on this June 10th event is found in this newsletter on page 23 with instructions on how to register.

Last but not least, we hope that your own **personal research** is proving successful. Maybe you'd like to share these successes with our members in an article in the Newsletter or Journal. We'd love to hear from you.

United Empire Loyalists went into exile after the American War of Independence. 40,000 exiled Loyalists fled north to resettle in lands that would become the Dominion of Canada



The four Pacific Regional Branches of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada celebrate **BC Loyalist Day** on July 22nd. This day was proclaimed in 2012 by the Hon. Lt. Gov. Stephen Point.

**THE
UNITED
EMPIRE
LOYALISTS'
ASSOCIATION
of
CANADA**

Deep Cove



Photos and poster by June Gauntley, member #5112.

In May 2020, it was a beautiful day and Drew and I had not been out since Covid-19 restrictions began in March. We carried on to Deep Cove, thinking it would be peaceful and fairly empty of people. We were right! We enjoyed being outdoors and taking photos of the boats and kayaks at these iconic places found along the west coast of the province.

MESSAGE FROM THE BCGS WEBSITE TEAM

BCGS WEBSITE FEATURES OF THE MONTH



"We don't own our family history. We simply preserve it for the next generation."
Rosemary Alva

BCGS Website

The website team has had a busy past couple of months. Most of it has been behind the scenes and the three of us are involved in much more than posting new items. We have had the AGM, the election of the new Board of Directors, improving our "ZOOM" capabilities, expanding our relationship with our Affiliate Societies, welcoming new members every week, supporting the Coffee Chats, providing research expertise for the queries that are received, and much more.



We are also actively searching for interesting items, especially those that already live at the BCGS Genealogical Library, which we can post on the website.

We are currently involved in some website maintenance and you may see a few "Under Construction" or "Temporarily Unavailable" notices as you browse.

If you come across any broken links or page error notices in the next while, please send an email to webmaster@bcgs.ca, with a link to the location if possible. We are pleased when members notify us because, as you all know, links break or are changed at the origin.



In the meantime, we hope you know that we are still working to keep the website a living, viable research resource for all our members.

Your communications to us and anything you may wish to contribute to the website are welcome.

Thank you - Your Website Team: **Sheila Albrecht, Ann Buchanan, Jan Graf**



MESSAGE FROM THE BCGS eJOURNAL EDITOR



Lynne Fletcher, BCGS eJournal Editor

We look forward to reading your story!

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

While watching TV this last weekend, I stumbled across memorial services and reports for ANZAC Day in Australia. I realized

that these April 25th services were similar to our November 11th Remembrance Day services in Canada, with many of the same types of events, to remember the soldiers and peacekeepers who have served in many wars.

The respectful discussions and reviews caught my attention immediately, as did the wearing of a sprig of rosemary, with or without a red poppy, on the lapels of the announcers in their black suits (instead of the usual bright golf shirts).



Last year's Covid crisis brought some new Remembrance practices to Australia, too. As wreath-laying services, parades and social events were cancelled, many citizens stood in their driveways to observe a minute of silence and to light a candle for their servicemen and servicewomen.

In your family, do you have a special tradition that connects to a family member who served in the Canadian military, or in the Australian or New Zealand military service? Is there a tradition observed in your family for ANZAC Day or Remembrance Day? Could you share these with our readers?

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBERS of the BCGS

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

5852 **Brenda Jones** from Surrey, BC

5853 **Sharon Splinter** from Chilliwack, BC

A5854 **Nanaimo Family History Society**, BC (Affiliate Member)

5855 **Joe Desjarlais** from North Vancouver, BC

5856 **Elaine Jensen** from St Albert, Alberta

5857 **Elizabeth Demmon** from Bremerton, Washington

5858 **Sharon Eastabrook** from Smithers, BC

5859 **Kerry Snider** from Parksville, BC

5860 **Shelley Dureau** from Maple Ridge, BC

5861 **Matthew Schubert** from North Vancouver, BC



YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP includes **FREE ACCESS** to the BCGS RESEARCH TEAM

If you are a member of the BCGS, email Ann Buchanan, BCGS Research Coordinator, 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.

BCGS POSTCARD COLLECTION



POSTCARDS OF THE MONTH - The Story Behind a Picture Postcard

Janice Kidwell, member #5033

Abode Island, West Vancouver

This month's BCGS postcard features **Abode Island**, which is located just off Eagle Island at the entrance to Fisherman's Cove in West Vancouver. The postcard view is looking out towards Point Grey from the North Shore, above Marine Drive. The photograph is listed as having been taken July 9, 1943.

Efforts have been made to find the history of this privately-owned island and who may have lived there in the past. The little white house with the red roof is no longer there but the island does have amenities and is available for weddings.

It is acknowledged that West Vancouver is on the traditional, ancestral and unceded territories of the Coast Salish People, in particular, the Squamish First Nations, Tsleil-Waututh First Nations and Musqueam First Nations.

The Coast Publishing Co., Vancouver, B.C.

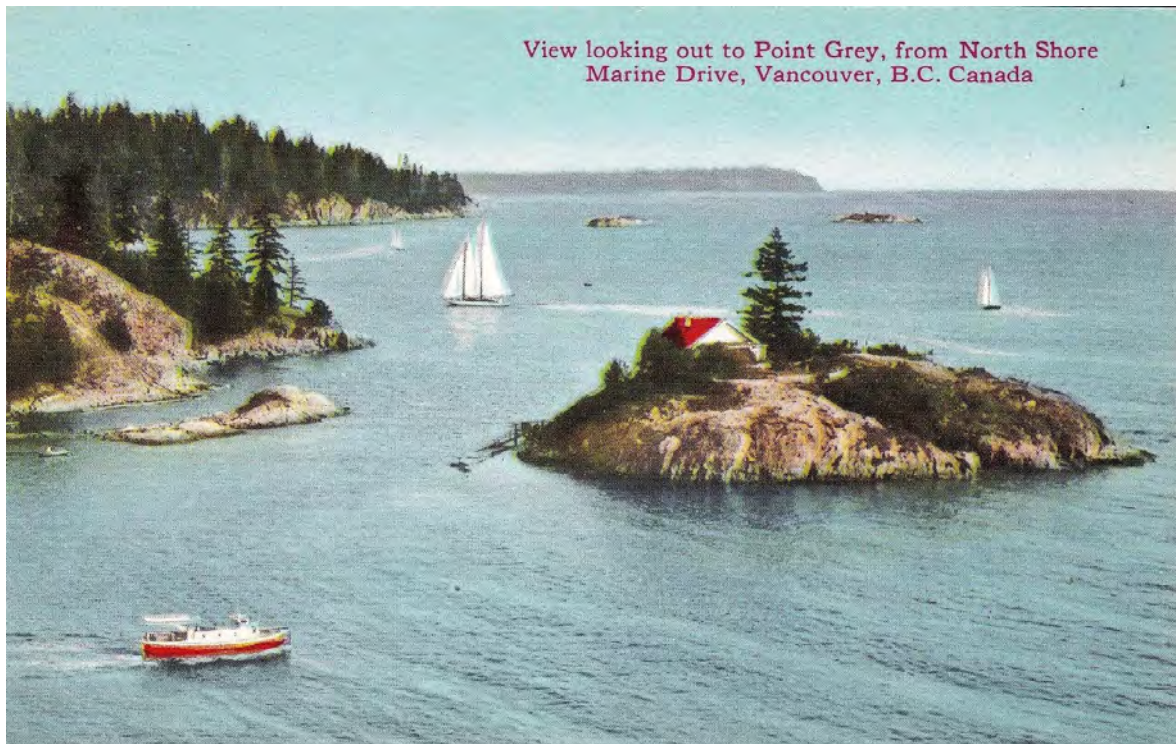
Vancouver Archives Postcard:AM1052 P-851

There is neither a message nor a stamp on the back.

West Vancouver Archives also has this postcard in their Photograph collection

With thanks to Reto Tschan, MAS, Archivist, District of West Vancouver

Please note: Janice and our Postcards of the Month articles will be on **hiatus** for the next few months. They will return in our October 1st Newsletter.



BCGS MEMBERS' MEETINGS

News about both upcoming and previous members' meetings

Meetings are held via Zoom the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 12, 2021

The **MAY MEETING** will be held via **Zoom**

PRESENTER: MARLENE DANCE - The American Revolution

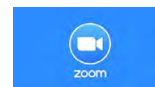
UNITED EMPIRE LOYALISTS - THIS IS THEIR STORY

Marlene Dance has over 47 years of experience. She started at a time when phone calls, personal interviews and written letters were the only way to put together a family tree. Then the internet burst upon us in 2000 which provided a wealth of information easily to researchers. Marlene has researched her father's side back to their arrival on the ship "Ann" to Plymouth, Mass. in 1623.

Over the past 10 years, Marlene has presented to many genealogy associations, service groups, LDS Church Genealogy workshops and has had two genealogy articles published nationally. She facilitates the monthly meetings of the Sardis Library Genealogy Workshop Group. Marlene has offered sold out genealogy classes with ElderCollege since 2009. She serves as the President of the UELAC Chilliwack and has been Chilliwack Branch Genealogist since 2013.

About the WEDNESDAY, May 12th

BCGS MEMBERS' MEETING via ZOOM



- 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 info@bcgs.ca for assistance.
- Each member needs a free Zoom account to participate.

MEMBERS' VOICE - Please advise our President if you wish to present a family history story or anecdote

JUNE 9, 2021

All in-person meetings are cancelled for the foreseeable future.
We will resume pending orders from BC's public health officials.

Join us via Zoom

JEANNIE VANCE will be giving a presentation on what is new in FAMILY SEARCH



LOOKING BACK at the APRIL MEMBERS' MEETING

The BCGS Members' Meeting via Zoom

Eunice Robinson, newly-elected President, opened the meeting at 7:29. She expressed a welcome to all attending this meeting and thanked those who participated in the AGM at the March meeting. A big thank you to **Bill Clayton**, now our Past President, with appreciation to last year's **Board of Directors** and a welcome to the **new Board of Directors** for 2021-22.

The **Minutes** of the last meeting were moved to be accepted by Darlene Austin. Janet White seconded the motion, which was unanimously approved.

The **BCGS Genealogical Library** will remain closed indefinitely, pending on-going orders from BC's public health officials. At this time, it looks like the closure may last a while considering the rise in Covid infections in BC.

The **Bottle Drive** income is \$612.20 to date. This is fantastic and there are more cans and bottles waiting for Bill Clayton at the Library. Last year's total was \$720 so this fundraising project is even more successful in 2021. Thanks from Bill to those dropping off their donations to the Library or to his driveway. If neither of the options are possible, the cans and bottles can be returned and the proceeds donated to the Library.



The first session of the **BCGS 2021 Anniversary Seminar** with **Dave Obee** was well attended with over 100 people logging in. The second session is May 1 with **Janice Nickerson** and our third session will be June 5th with **Lucille Campey**. Be sure to register. There is no charge for BCGS members or affiliates, however, there is a \$25.00 fee per session for non-members.

LOOKING BACK at the APRIL MEMBERS' MEETING, cont'd

There is planning for a **Fall Seminar Series**. Topics, dates and speakers are to be determined.

The Cloverdale Library and BCGS have planned a joint presentation for June 12th. Carmen Merrells of Surrey Libraries has engaged **Maureen Taylor, Photo Detective**. This address is free to BCGS members and Affiliates. See p. 23.

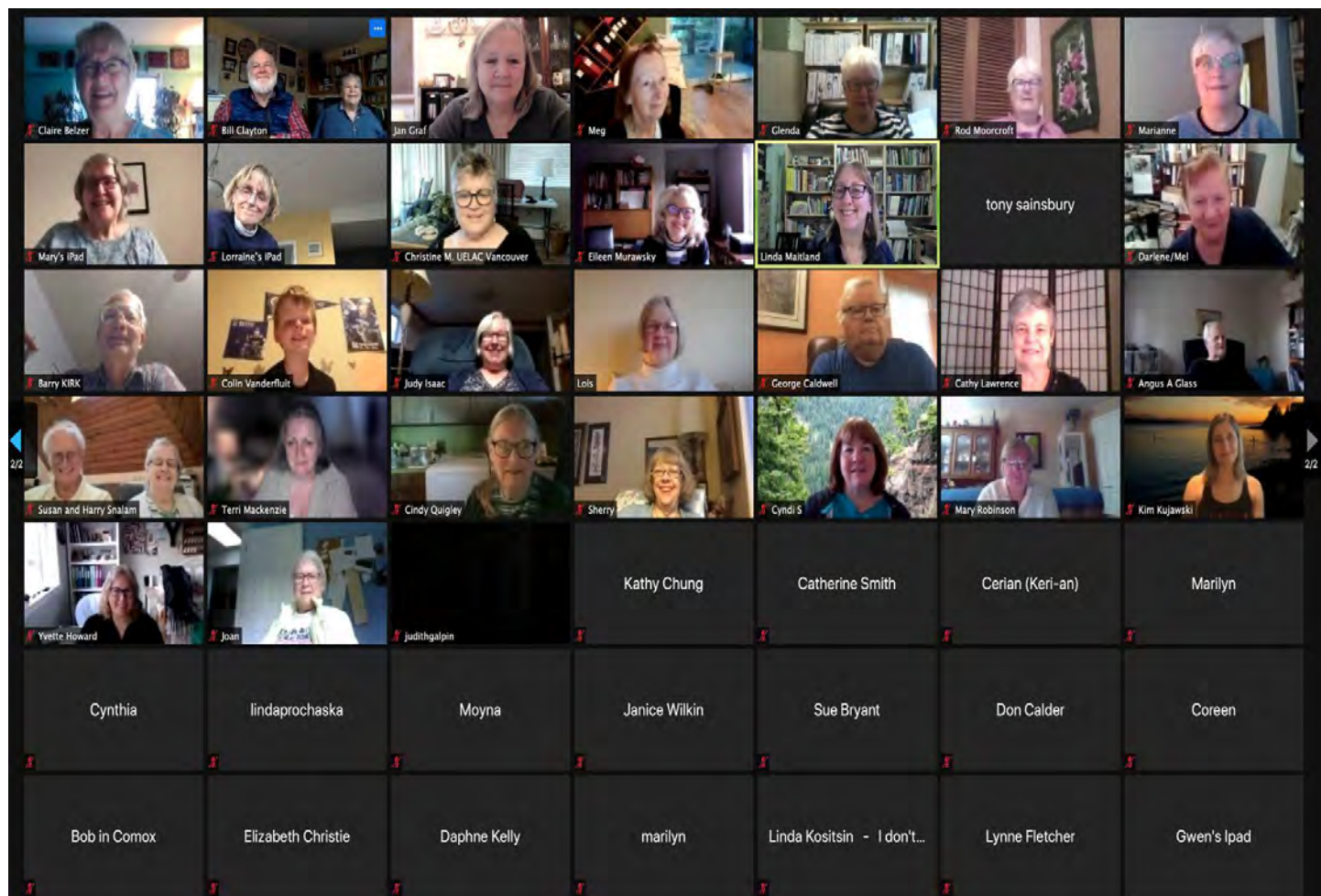
The BCGS has many **projects** underway. **Volunteers** are more than welcome.

A REQUEST to all our Members

Please use your BCGS membership number

From **Dorothy Jones**, our BCGS Email Co-ordinator, regarding correspondence with the Society:

When emailing volunteers of the Society for help or information, we ask that you include your membership number to assist us in our response to your correspondence. Thank you.



Once again there was a general conversation about members' research topics which ranged from a member's books, to the Burr family and on to Elgin County in Ontario, Jumbo the Elephant and Colonel Talbot, to spring and the ubiquitous dandelion.

Grant Dahling was asked about a family history book written by his uncle, **Bob Dahling**, a former BCGS member (now deceased) and published some time ago. Dorothy Jones, of our Journal Exchanges Team, had an email from a researcher who was interested in obtaining a copy. Grant offered to check with his cousins to see if either of his uncle's two books was still available. He then recounted some stories about his uncle. During the Depression, Bob was raised by Grant's grandparents, Ernie & Annie Dahling. Bob was an NDP member and deeply involved in politics and very much a socialist. Bob's funeral in 2004 was held in St. Peter's in New Westminster, and was attended by the NDP party president. The president's politicized funeral speech caused the priest to shout, "Enough!" and the congregation to shout, 'Shame'. It seems this was typical of Bob who *'really stirred the pot'*. Bob was an active BCGS member, a genealogy enthusiast and he self-published his family history books.

Both of Bob's books are in the BCGS library collection. *A Lemieux Index - an Introduction to The Descendants of Pierre Louis Lemieux of Rouen, Normandy, France* by Robert J. Dahling and *My Irish Grandmother Was French (Mary Elizabeth Pielou)*, by Dahling, J. Robert; Peilou, Pierce L. View Bob's obituary [here](#).

Marcia Graves asked where the actor, Raymond Burr (of the TV show "Perry Mason" fame), was buried. This question brought up a conversation about the **Burr family**, a prominent local family with a number of members recounting connections to the Burrs.

Raymond Burr is buried in the same plot as his parents and other family members in the Fraser View Cemetery in New Westminster. The headstone was displayed in the BCGS Newsletter of July 1, 2017, page 19, the photo having been taken during the cemetery tour as part of the BCGS Canada 150 Seminar. Marcia has a photograph, taken at White Rock in 1934, of her Uncle Ted Wey in a group shot which includes three Burr family members.

Janet White's family is buried next to the Burr family.

Sheila Albrecht provided a link to the [gravesite](#) and noted her grandfather, Walter Thicket, was a farm manager for one of Raymond Burr's uncles in Pitt Meadows in the late 1920's. Raymond Burr used to visit his uncle, which was how Sheila's mother met him.

Donalda James found an 1861 census record for a Benjamin Burr and family who hailed from Wexford, Ireland according to an Ancestry Family Tree and settled in St. Thomas, Elgin County. Donalda is trying to connect her Burr family, born in Ireland (Benjamin and Eliza Burr, her 3x great grandparents). She had a map sent from Ireland with the family noted and feels it must be the 3x great grandfather as the family found in Ontario may well have been from Wexford. There is a DNA connection which Donalda is exploring.

This took the conversation to early Ontario. **Margaret Sharon** commented that she has many books about **Elgin County** as she has ancestors in that county. There are numerous connections to Elgin County within the BCGS membership with **Peter Whitlock's** great-grandfather Frederick Whitlock and his family in St. Thomas and Frederick's brothers Henry and Samuel Whitlock nearby. **Judith Ueland's** Robert Johnston and Frances Robinson's son, Joseph, is buried in the old St. Thomas cemetery. Both the Whitlock and Johnston families originated in County Armagh in Ireland.



LOOKING BACK at the APRIL MEMBERS' MEETING, cont'd

St. Thomas is where **Jumbo the elephant** was hit by a train. **Linda Maitland's** husband's great-grandfather's brother, George Phipps, was driving the train. A sad occasion but causing some amusement as a member suggested the elephant should now be a part of our genealogy society. See the newspaper accounts of the train accident of Jumbo's death and the obituary of George Phipps on pages 28-29 in the Focus on an Ancestor section.

Margaret Sharon provided a [link](#) to the iconic photo of Jumbo. She says, "My 10-year-old grandfather Maurice William Sharon lived in St. Thomas then; I've often wondered if he's among the young boys in this photo. Jumbo died 2 months after grandfather Maurice's father, Thomas Sturgeon Sharon, died in a farming accident in Southwold Township, where his father, Thomas Sharon, was an early Talbot settler."

Discussion ensued about **Colonel Thomas Talbot**, who dispensed land grants in Elgin County to the early settlers – as it suited him. Margaret Sharon's great-great-grandfather was considered too young but he had a beard so was given land. It was noted that Talbot apparently didn't like to give land to former soldiers as he didn't think they would make good farmers.

The sunshine took many people out to their gardens and even to the golf course. For those who were annoyed about the dandelions in their lawns, **Celia Lewis** spoke in their defense saying, "Dandelions are not weeds and have many uses. They can be eaten in salads and made into wine. The bees need them. Let them feed the bees before being rooted out."

As always, our informal discussions add zest and unusual genealogical information to the meeting.



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](#).

COMPLIMENTS from our READERS - with thanks from Judith Ueland and Linda Maitland

June Gauntley: I have enjoyed working with you every month on the Newsletter Poster!

Dorothy Jones: Hi Linda & Judith, thank you for being great Newsletter editors for the past several years. Your articles have always been well received. Job well done!

Christine Manzer, UE: Thanks as always for your continued support.

Meg McLaughlin: If this is the last article I send to you, I've enjoyed working with you over the years. I'm sad to

see that I will no longer be working with you on this but I'm sure you are both over the moon thinking about what you will be able to do instead. Maybe you'll even have time for some genealogy!

Margaret Sharon: Thanks, Linda & Judith, for all your work in producing such an excellent newsletter every month! I hope you enjoy your "retirement" and that you make some great family history finds with all the free time you'll have now!





BCGS MEETING PRESENTATION - Ralph Drew - Coquitlam Chronicles

Ralph has published four books with a fifth awaiting publication having been delayed because of Covid. Ralph dedicated this talk to former member Wendy Graham (deceased 2014), a longtime member of the BCGS. Wendy was a supporter of Ralph's books and he wished to remember her.

Ralph began his presentation with some personal information relating that both his grandfathers were immigrants, one from England and the other from Ireland. He also wished to present a special talk about the Coquitlam Pioneers and the first settlers on the Coquitlam River as they were instrumental in the development of the lower mainland. His books, *Forest & Fjord: The History of Belcara* and *Ferries & Fjord: The History of Indian Arm* won Lieutenant Governor's Gold Medal awards. <http://www.ralphdrew.ca/>

For this presentation, Ralph chose to focus on three of the most eminent and early settlers to the area, each of whom had extraordinary lives and contributed to the exploration and development of this part of BC. Ralph included maps and photos in his presentation which highlighted the effects each man brought to Coquitlam and ultimately, Vancouver.

The first settler on the Coquitlam river was **Alexander McLean** (1809 – 1889). There is no picture available but Ralph found his obituary. Alexander led an extraordinary life setting out to sea at age 14, enduring slavery by cannibals and living with the Maoris in New Zealand. In 1849 he set sail for San Francisco. He sailed to Seattle and then eventually to BC. He married his wife (only referred to as "Mrs. McLean") in 1876.

A picture of New Westminster of the time shows an unsettled area. Ralph called him a genuine pioneer who pre-empted land in 1860 on the Pitt River, well before others arrived. He died in 1932.

JP Atkins: Stephen Hastings Atkins was referred to as JP as his grandfather, father and son all had the same name. JP was a pioneer to Coquitlam who arrived only a few months later than Alexander McLean. He established a farm on an island in the Coquitlam River. Roads in the area were not built until 1862. There were First Nations tribes there at the time who also used the river as their highway.

Although at one time settled in Coquitlam, he appears to have moved about, returning to Ireland and appearing in Burke's Landed Gentry of England and Ireland. He had 10 or 11 children with two wives and was in his late 60s when settling in Coquitlam. He died about 1870. Pictures of Stephen (JP) Atkins and his wife, Mary Ann Greene, were found through genealogists who had researched this family. Edmund Atkins became a mayor of Coquitlam. A map shows the dates of the land grants. <https://www.coqlibrary.ca/>

George Black, "the gentleman gambler", the only other known European settler, pre-empted land on the Coquitlam River in 1864 and JP Atkins was mentioned in the pre-emption. He went to the Hastings townsite and established a butcher business, driving his cattle from Coquitlam through New Westminster to the Hastings townsites. A map of Douglas Road shows his first hotel and the original butchery. He built the Brighton Hotel and he and his wife, Juantia Minard, were socially active hosting dances, dinner and sporting events. Horse racing was a favorite. As a result he became known as the "Laird of Hastings". Colony Farm on the Coquitlam River became one of the most successful farms in BC's history. In closing, Ralph commented that the BC Lower Mainland has a very young history but it is exceedingly interesting and not well known. His fifth book covers the area of Pitt River to Hatzic Lake and includes the steamboats and paddle wheelers that played a major role in the commerce of the Fraser River.

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

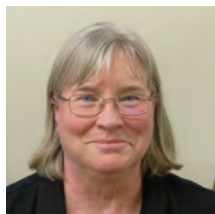
Unit 211, 12837 – 76th Avenue, Surrey, BC

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



The BCGS Genealogical Library is normally open Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the BCGS library is closed.
We will reopen pending orders from BC's public health officials.



Corrine Jubb, Library Administrator

In March, the BCGS Board approved updating the BCGS Genealogical Library door locks and chose this time to do so while activity at the library is quieter. New keys have been issued for those supporting behind the scenes work, like cataloguing books during Covid. More keys will be issued as needed when we reopen to researchers.

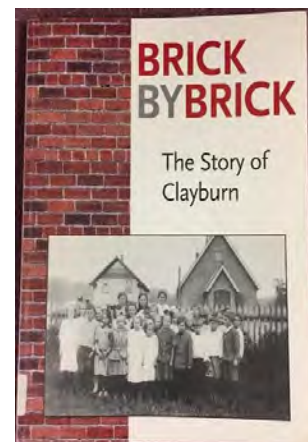
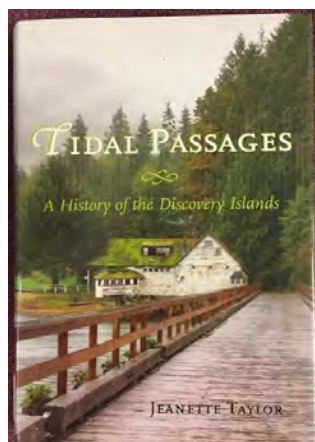
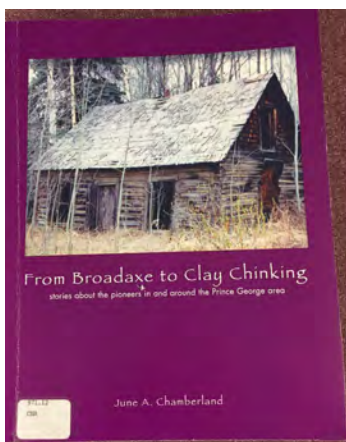
The library has many books on BC communities and topics. Four of these are:

971.12 CHA - "From Broadaxe to Clay Chinking" (re Prince George) by June A. Chamberlain

971.12 BVGS - "Chronicles of Smithers, Our 100th Anniversary" by the Bulkley Valley Genealogical Society

971.134 TAY - "Tidal Passages: A History of the Discovery Islands" by Jeanette Taylor

971.133 BRA - "Brick by Brick, the Story of Clayburn" by Heimi Braches



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**

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY has AFFILIATE LIBRARY STATUS with [FamilySearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org)

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. 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 **via Zoom**

Sat, May 8 & June 12, 10 am to noon

RSVP Linda Maitland

lindamaitland@telus.net



EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

Introductory DNA

Monday, May 3 & June 7, 1 to 3 pm

RSVP Sharon Clayton

sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



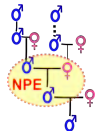
EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

Parental Puzzles (NPE)

Mon, May 17 & June 21, 1 to 3 pm

RSVP Sharon Clayton

sharonjmclayton@gmail.com



ORGANIZING YOUR RESEARCH **via Zoom**

Thursday, May 13, 7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



BC GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

Thursday, June 17, 7 to 9 pm

With Janet White

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



CHINA GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

Thurs, May 6 & June 3, 10 - 11 am

RSVP Linda Yip

hello@past-presence.com



US GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

TBA With Judith Ueland

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



SCOTLAND GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

Thursday, June 10, 7 to 9 pm

With Lorraine Irving

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ENGLAND GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

Thurs, May 20 & June 24, 7 to 9 pm

With Ann Buchanan

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



IRELAND GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

Thursday, June 3, 7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



SCANDINAVIA GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

Thursday, May 27, 7 to 9 pm

With Eunice Robinson

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ONTARIO GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

Thursday, May 6, 7 to 9 pm

With Janet White

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



ATLANTIC CANADA GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

TBA

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



GERMANS from RUSSIA GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

TBA

With Eunice Robinson

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



PRAIRIES GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

TBA

With Judith Ueland

RSVP coffeechat@bcgs.ca



NEW CHAT! See p. 19

ADVANCED DNA GENEALOGY CHAT **via Zoom**

Tuesday, May 18, 7 to 9 pm

With Terry Hartley, Jim Graham & Kathleen Graham

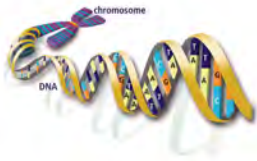
RSVP Terry Hartley

terhart1@gmail.com



NEW GENEALOGY CHAT STARTING - Advanced DNA

A new BCGS Special Interest Group on **Advanced DNA Skills** will launch on **Tuesday, May 18th** at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. It will be facilitated by Terry Hartley with the assistance of Jim & Kathleen Graham. The Advanced DNA Skills group is intended to be member-driven and participative. Due to the experience of its members, advanced tools and approaches will be covered.



The existing **Introductory DNA** and **Parental Puzzles** groups will continue to be facilitated by Sharon Clayton in their current format. The Advanced DNA group will cover genetic genealogy topics in greater depth and

detail. Members are welcome to join more than one group based on their needs and interests.

To ensure an interactive environment and the opportunity to grow our skills together, membership numbers may be limited, with the addition of new members occurring on a set schedule.

For further information about the Advanced DNA Skills group, to assess whether this group is suitable for you, and/or for an invitation to the May 18th meeting, please contact Terry Hartley at terrhart1@gmail.com.

Note: At the first meeting of the group, a decision will be made on a schedule for the monthly meetings.

BCGS NEWS

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

FUNDRAISING

Each donation makes a difference to our BCGS budget!

FUNDRAISING

\$2,200 GOAL
POP CANS & RETURNABLE BOTTLES

Big thanks to those who have dropped off bottles and cans at the library and in my driveway. Your donations are very much appreciated. Anyone with a donation to drop off can contact me at **604.329.1721**. As the Library is closed until further notice, you are welcome to drop your pop cans and bottles off in Bill's driveway in South Surrey, if that is convenient for you. Bill will see them returned and funded to the library. Email Bill at weclayton45@gmail.com. These funds are for the Alice Louise Marwood Fund (ALM Fund), which is dedicated to the upkeep of the Library

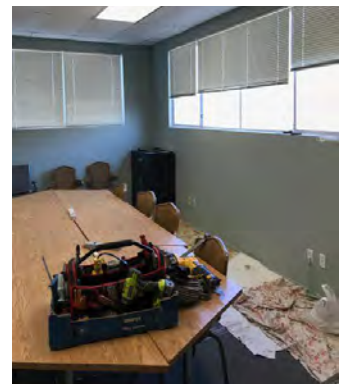
\$727
APR 30

Hot off the press!

Bill Clayton wrote at noon on **30 April** that the new total for the bottle and can donations is now **\$727.27**, which is just short of last year's total of \$748.15.

LIBRARY UPGRADES

Bill Clayton is also hard at work upgrading the window frames in the BCGS Library Board Room. He writes: *Attached are a couple of before and during photos of the boardroom reno/trim installation.*



Will try to keep you posted as time advances. North window sill trim installed. Will finish the rest of the trim for this window next week.

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 until there is a new health order permitting us to open; however, many of our projects can easily be done at home. Check out our website [BCGS Projects](#) and contact Eunice Robinson at president@bcgs.ca or the Team Leaders for more information.



HOLTEN CANADIAN CEMETERY PROJECT – UPDATE



May 5th, 2021 will mark the **76th Anniversary** of the **Liberation of the Netherlands**, one day after the National Remembrance Day of May 4th. Although a large ceremony was not held last year, BCGS volunteers are continuing to research and produce a report on each of the 81 British Columbians who are buried at Holten Canadian Cemetery.

To date, twelve people have chosen a total of 33 soldiers to research. Some reports have been received with more to come as time allows for these volunteers. A copy of the reports will be sent to Jan Braakman at the Holten Canadian Cemetery in the

Netherlands and a copy will also be on file at the BCGS Library.

Some soldiers came from large cities and others from small communities. There are BC home towns that I had not heard of, e.g. Knutsford, Erickson, Groundbirch and Blackpool, but I have since spent a little time reading about them and their own history.

The Regiments are also varied – The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada, The Canadian Scottish, Canadian Army Dental Corps, The Queen’s Own Cameron Highlanders, The Lincoln and Welland Regiment - to name a few. Perhaps some of you had relatives who also served in these different Regiments.

If you are interested in researching a BC soldier remembered at Holten, I would be happy to hear from you.

Janice Kidwell - Holten Canadian Cemetery Project Leader haggis@dccnet.com

BCGS RESOURCES FOR GENEALOGY - EDUCATION SESSIONS

Join members of the BCGS - Celia Lewis, Lorraine Irving and Eunice Robinson via Zoom - for the following sessions:

North Vancouver Library - **Learn about the BCGS organization and its resources** on May 11, 2021 (2:00 pm) and Tuesday May 18 (6:30 pm). **Genealogy websites, family trees and databases** will be offered on Thursday, May 13, 2021 (2:00 pm) and Thursday, May 20, 2021 (6:30 pm). Registration required: [Online](#) or call 604-987-4471, ext. 8175.

New Westminster Library - 1 session May 29, 10 am to noon - **Family History – Myths & Mysteries** – Interested in researching your family history? Whether you are just starting or have been researching for a while, join us as presenters from the British Columbia Genealogical Society share some of the tips, tricks and mysteries of family research. <https://www.nwpl.ca>

Alaska Cruise Group Booking Perks have been Transferred to our 2022 Sailing Dates

Have you heard?

Holland America **NIEUW AMSTERDAM** NOW SAILING
September 18-25, 2022
with Genealogy Gurus: Blaine Bettinger & Mary Kathryn Kozy

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

Holland America has successfully transferred 99% of our Alaska Cruise group bookings to the 2022 sailing dates.

We are not the only people HAL booking staff has been helping, so many thanks to our Alaska Cruise Travel Agent Robert Marcoux for navigating a new course during these challenging times. Once he gets a “go-ahead” from Holland America, Robert will be sending everyone updates from **Holland America** and from his agency **Travel with Robert**.

So far, everyone in our group booking has been re-booked into the same cabins reserved for the 2021 cruise dates.

We all get to keep all of the perks that we have been accumulating for the past year and a half:

- Free 7 Day Premium Internet Package
- Pre-paid Gratuities
- Free Signature Dining Package
- Free Premium Drink Package

Our final confirmation payment date has been extended until June 2022. To provide peace of mind before we make our final payments, we all need to be aware of travel insurance options to cover health-related expenses that could arise on the ship or during shore excursions. Robert will be providing us with an overview of travel insurance options in the June newsletter.

Considering joining our BCGS group booking? Robert is only a call, a text or an email away.
(See bottom of poster for his contact info.)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/503171243562227>

<https://www.facebook.com/travelwithrobert.ca>



GENEALOGY NEWS in CANADA, DNA GENEALOGY NEWS, GENEALOGICAL SEMINARS & WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS



Have you been missing these former regular features of this Newsletter over the past few months? We've been posting this information in our **BCGS Genealogical Discussion Group** on Facebook as we hear about it. This group is open to BCGS members and non-members. You can join [here](#).

1971 to 2021 - 50 YEARS AGO - Georama Growers, Nelson, BC

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



Georama Growers Celebrates Its 50th Anniversary

George Grypma Sr. and his wife Anna, founders of **Georama Growers**, arrived in Canada from Amsterdam in November 1958. Marianne, 4yrs and Case, 2yrs, immigrated with them, and Simon was in his mother's womb when they arrived. The Grypma's immigration sponsors were family members who lived in Calgary, so Simon, George Jr., Wilma and David were born there.

George and Anna fell in love with the Kootenays during a family camping trip. In 1968, the energetic couple purchased a run-down farm at Blewett (near Nelson), overlooking the west arm of Kootenay Lake. Over time, and with the help of all the family, their hobby farm and small greenhouse became a full-time nursery and greenhouse enterprise that grew into Georama Growers. The word "georama" (which is English, not Dutch), closely related to the word 'panorama', is loosely defined as a "vision or view of the earth".

The business opened to the public in May 1971. Although Anna and George Sr. are no longer with them, **Georama Growers** is still a Grypma family business. Many family members and even grandchildren have helped to make it a success. Case is *President and General Manager*, George Jr. is *Head Grower* and Case's wife Imelda, whose parents also were Dutch immigrants, is the *Garden Centre Manager*.

www.georamagrowers.com



THE BCGS 50th ANNIVERSARY CALENDAR

Celebration Days in May: Star Wars Day, Cinco de Mayo, VE Day/WW11, Laylatul Qadr (Night of Power), Mother's Day, Victoria Day, National Patriots' Day (QC)

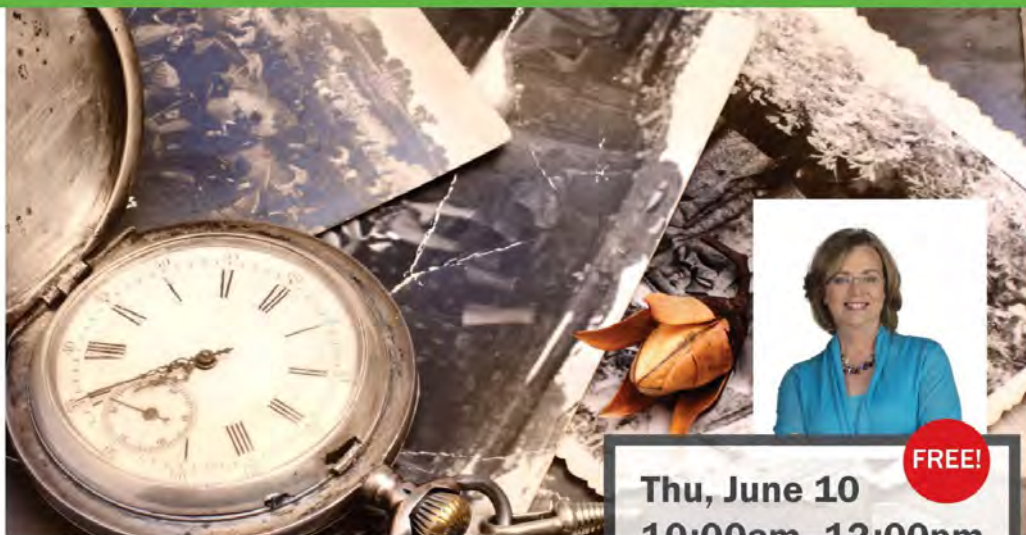
In 1971, **George Burrows** retired from supervising Vancouver's beaches and pools. A cairn, near the Kitsilano Beach bathhouse, honours his 40-year career.





The BCGS is co-sponsoring the **PHOTO DETECTIVE SEMINAR**
with the Cloverdale Library and Cloverdale Museum

Historical Photo Analysis: ROADSHOW!



JOIN THE PHOTO DETECTIVE MAUREEN TAYLOR AND LEARN HOW TO DATE AND PLACE OLD PHOTOS.

Old photos are full of clues if you know how to read the evidence. You can submit your own photos for analysis in this online Roadshow-style program (10-15 photos will be chosen).

Thu, June 10
10:00am-12:00pm

FREE!

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

OUR PARTNERS:



museum of surrey



Digital Branch

surreylibraries.ca



Surrey Libraries Family History

Hello everyone, here are some newsy updates from us here at Surrey Libraries Family History!



1. **Ancestry** – access for free from home – has been **extended to June 30!** (our thanks to Proquest and their partner Ancestry). Please remember this is for Surrey residents with a Surrey card (other library systems are offering this too, so if Surrey is not your home, do check with your local library). Access from home is through our website, you will need to scroll down to our Ancestry link: [Family History](#)
2. ***New Database* BC Historical Newspapers!** We have just obtained a keyword searchable database for our BC historical newspapers! It covers (a) The Vancouver Sun, 1912-2010; (b) The Vancouver Province, 1894-2010, and (c) The Victoria Times Colonist, 1884-2010. You can access from home as well through our website, scrolling down to the BC Historical Newspapers link: [Family History](#) (Remember, we have the microfilms as well, for items that may not turn up in keyword searches for technical reasons.)
3. **New Program: The Historical Photo Detective: Roadshow!** Thursday, June 10, 10am-12:00. We have booked Maureen Taylor, aka “The Photo Detective”, to share her knowledge on analyzing our old family photos – reading the evidence in clothing, hairstyles, etc. to narrow down a date or place. This program is a partnership between the BC Genealogical Society, the Museum of Surrey, and us here at Surrey Libraries. Registrants will be able to send in their own photos for analysis during the program (10-15 photos will be chosen). This is an online program. Free. Details and registration link are [here](#).
4. **Fun Family History Fridays.** Our monthly opportunity for you to chat with us and with your fellow researchers about what you’ve found, what you’re looking for, and what’s new in the genealogy research world. Last Friday of each month, from 2:30 to 3:30pm. Open to all. Free. Details and registration link are [here](#).
5. **Genealogy Orientation and Consultation.** By appointment. Come in for an orientation to our department and services, and a one-on-one consultation (with full covid safety protocols in place) to discuss your research needs, whether you are just starting out or looking for a new direction. Register by calling us at 604-598-7328 or emailing us at familyhistory@surrey.ca.
6. Reminder: **Our Look-Up Service:** If you have a *specific* reference for a record on our microfilms, books, or in one of our databases, please feel free to contact us and we’ll look it up for you and send it your way to save you a trip (as much as we would like to see you). This is a free service (limited to 1-2 requests per person please). Call us with your request at 604-598-7328 or email us at familyhistory@surrey.ca.

Remember, we are OPEN, with a one-hour in-library time limit. Our hours are [here](#):

Wishing you much success with your research. Questions? Please contact us by phone at 604-598-7328 or email at familyhistory@surrey.ca.

Regards, Carmen

A note from Vancouver Public Library

Ancestry Library Edition

VPL cardholders can now enjoy access to [Ancestry Library Edition](#) from home for free until **JUNE 30, 2021**. Visit their [genealogy guide](#) for more research help.



University Ancestors: The University of British Columbia Handbook

Snipped from Candice McDonald's blog, [Finding Your Canadian Story](#), 18 April 2021

If your ancestor attended the University of British Columbia from the 1920s and later, then check out the collection of [UBC Handbooks](#) digitized on the UBC Library website. These were published once a year, usually in December, and given to students. The UBC Library has various years from 1921 to 2019.

BCGS NEWSLETTER CORRIGENDA



PATRICIA SKIDMORE - BCGS MARCH MEETING PRESENTER

Marjorie: Too Afraid to Cry

Patricia has written to note some date corrections in our April Newsletter review of her talk in March and add more information to her presentation: *"Thanks for the write-up in the last Newsletter. I was alerted to it by one of your members who contacted me wanting to order a book."*

- The parent searching for his son took place in 1698. The newspaper article shown below provided this story. Children were still being shipped overseas as late as 1948 when the last 6 child migrants were sent to the Prince of Wales Fairbridge Farm School.
- Marjorie died four months after her 90th birthday.
- Gordon Brown's apology took place in 2010.

A further article by Pat is available at ["There was no love:' Child migrants sent to Canada as young as 7 still asking why.](#)

Pat's books can be ordered through Patricia at patskidmore@shaw.ca

The newspaper article was published in The Flying Post or Post-Master from Tuesday, August 30 to Thursday, September 1, 1698, Number 516. The article was retyped for clarity.

A discovery is made of some of those concerned in Kidnapping Boys by a Coal-heaver in the Fryers, who missing his Son for some days, was advised to search among the ships in the River for him, and going from one Ship to another, at last his own son perceived him in Merchant-man at Long Reach, and told him the manner of his coming thither, viz. That a Person gave him a Letter to carry to a certain House by the Water-side, for which he paid him part in hand and promised to pay him the rest when he returned, but was no sooner entered the House, when he was obliged to swear he had no Parents alive, and was sent on board the said Ship, where there were about the number of 200 of different ages, some 8, some 9, others 11, but the oldest not above 12; and the Boy describing the Person, his Father fought after and found him out, and carried him before a Justice. He is committed to the Compter, and has confessed that he, and three others, have for some time made it their practice to Kidnap Boys in order to sell them to the West-Indies.



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 - BC Day - Labour Day - Thanksgiving - Christmas - New Year's Day - Groundhog Day - Robbie Burns Day - Chinese New Year - Family Day and Valentine's Day party that anyone has ever seen!

MEMBERS' CORNER

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



Patrick Keily, member #5414

Distilled Wisdom - Quotes from the less than famous Butternut denizens

Boom Boom Benny Kozlowski - in court for speeding

Judge with speech impediment: T-t-t-that will b-b-b-be t-t-ten dollars.

Boom Boom, mocking judge: I j-j-j-just h-h-h-happen to h-h-have it r-r-right here in m-m-my p-pocket.

Judge: And t-t-three days in jail. D-d-do you h-h-have that in y-y-your p-p-p-pocket t-t-too, s-s-smart guy?

Charles Birkholz - tavern owner

Charlie Kane, drinking a beer in tavern: You know what this town needs? It needs to build a 300 foot smokestack to incinerate the garbage.

Charles: Yeah, and they need to pave the streets with gold for you idiots from Chicago.

Grandpa Joe Eder - my grandfather

On a cold January morning: CLEAR AS A BELL AND COLDER THAN AUNT TILLY'S HEART!

Joe Ponshock - 91 year old neighbor, looking at full moon rising

Joe: Do you know how old that moon is?

Me: Pretty old.

Joe: Damn right it's old. It was there when I was a kid.

Louie Heiderer - kindly old man, telling a story from Prohibition

I overheard talk about me having a moonshine still by Parker Lake. I did, and if the wrong people find out, I could go to jail. So that night I started a bonfire at Parker Lake, threw a bunch of balsam boughs on it. Boy oh boy, did it send up the smoke. Could see it for miles. Next day, talk all over town was Louie Heiderer's still burned to the ground.

Luigi Logan - not the brightest bulb in the pack

Some people think that two and two is three, and sometimes five. But we know better. Two and two is four.

Charles (Jake) Eder - my uncle

Oh, bullshit! (His response to everything ever said to him)

Gertrude Keily - my mother

I'll kick your ass so hard, it'll jar your relatives in the old country.

Allan (Duke) Keily - my father

Me, begging for something: But Jimmy Ertl has one.

Pa: I suppose if Jimmy Ertl has a horseshit sandwich, you'll want one too.

George Keily - my uncle, dying from bone cancer and in terrible pain

Nina Fox, his sister-in-law: Well, how do you like this old age stuff?

George, managing a weak smile: I wouldn't recommend it to anyone. (George died the next day.)

Herman Wartgow - my great uncle, cigar in mouth

Elsie (his wife): I thought the doctor said you had to quit smoking?

Herman: No, he said cigarettes would kill me. Never said anything about cigars.

Howard Albright - three-pack a day cigarette smoker

Howard: You eat white bread? Don't you know that's called White Death? It's the worst thing there is for your health.

Me: Funny coming from someone who smokes like a chimney.

Howard: There is no concrete evidence that smoking does any harm.

Freda Keily - my grandmother

Freda: Clara, does Joe go to church?

Clara Ponshock: Oh yes, every Sunday when (tavern owner) Plucky rings the beer glass bell.

Father Otto Weber - priest, leaving tavern and falling on glare ice sidewalk.

Roger Fleming, helping him up: Pretty slippery, eh Father?

Father Weber: Nooo, drunk!

BARTLETT'S UNFAMILIAR QUOTATIONS





Meg McLaughlin, member #3847

Clues in Local History

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.

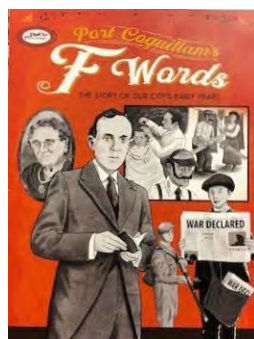
I live next to the Coquitlam River, so Ralph Drew's talk *Coquitlam Pioneers: First Settlers on the Coquitlam River* at the April BCGS meeting was of particular interest to me. The maps especially caught my attention. I knew the land around the river had changed over the course of its history. The fact that there had been an island in the middle of the river was something that I didn't know.



A view of the Coquitlam River from the trail

While my knowledge of the area's history was sketchy that far back, some of the more recent history I have been privy to. In the recent past, the Coquitlam River system has been tamed somewhat by a dam. With the advent of

warm sunny days, throngs of paddlers and sunbathers crowd its shores. The cities through which it flows have chosen to make the land beside the river more parklike but it used to be a working river. In October 1921, logs sent down the river swollen by rain piled up against one of the bridges. The bridge withstood the pressure for a while but eventually let go and a flash flood headed downstream towards Port Coquitlam. One of the images featured in *The F Words posters and comic books* was of the Myrtle Hotel floating down the river after the flood waters swept it from its foundations during that flood.



That must have been a dramatic sight. But more often places change incrementally over time. That's something ancestor hunters know all too well. Looking for the old family home? Too often the site has been repurposed. This was the case when I went looking for the pub my grandparents used to run on Dock Street, in London's East End. It has been replaced by the big brick building of Cable & Wireless Global. At least I have a picture of the family outside the pub who were able to visit a few years before it was gone.

I don't have any pictorial evidence of where another branch of my family lived and farmed on Islay in Scotland. They, of course, didn't own the land but had been tenants on it for generations. That land is most probably now under the runway of the Islay Airport.



Islay Airport, Glenagedale, Scotland

When I visited that part of Scotland, the Museum of Islay Life had the annual valuation roles for that land. Over the years the tenants changed. In World War 2, the name of the Air Ministry appeared as one of the tenants alongside one of my Hunter family. Gradually air interests took over and the Hunter name no longer appeared among the tenants. It was fascinating to track the changes over the years.

Alterations in land use are interesting to research. Whether the changes are dramatic or slow, they can provide a rich seam of clues about families' lives.



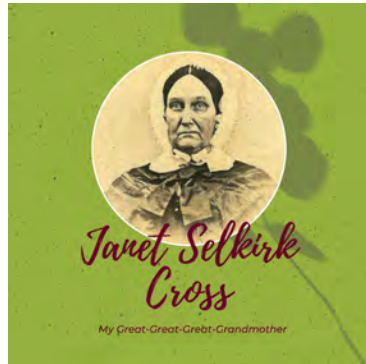
Susan Sullivan, member #4887

My Most Inspirational Mother

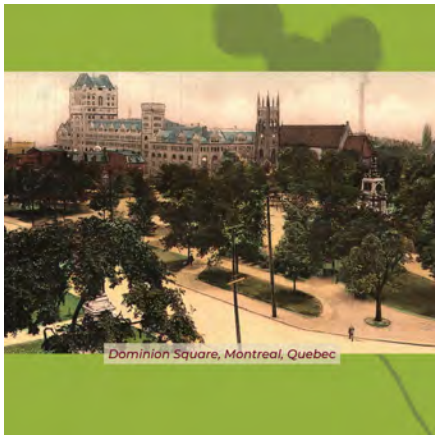
Who is Your Most Inspiring Mother?

MEET Janet, my MOST INSPIRING mother. Let me tell you her story :)

Janet was born in 1785 in Scotland, not so far from Glasgow. In 1807 she married Robert Cross. By December 1824 their ninth child, Jeanie, was born and they had started making plans to emigrate to Canada.



Robert had plans with partners to start a dry-goods business in Montreal. On September 20 1825, a steamboat brought the family on the last leg of the journey. A scant year later Robert died and was buried in what is now known as Dominion Square in present day downtown Montreal. His remains were later moved to Mount Royal Cemetery.



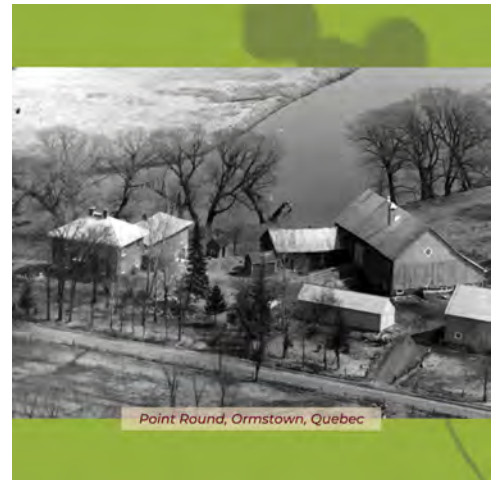
Robert's partners decided that they were not prepared to support Janet or the children. Janet, our true hero, discovered that land was going for a good deal in Beauharnois and

that there were many other fellow Scots in the area. She packed up her children and took them to Ormstown where she started a place where travellers could stay over (think bed & breakfast).

She used her funds to purchase some land with a house at Point Round, just outside of town. In addition to offering travellers a place to stay, she sold potash made from clearing the land for farming. Every time she earned more funds, she purchased more land.

By the time she passed in 1864, she had helped to establish her eldest child John as the town clerk, and saw six of the children marry and give her 44 grandchildren. While the youngest and oldest had passed by 1839, the rest of the family served in one way or another in the Lower Canada

Rebellion. She amassed a considerable number of land holdings and all her children prospered from her farm.



In Robert Sellar's notes

in his book*, her neighbours characterized her as feisty and strong-willed - basically, a force to be reckoned with. Her house was in the family until 1991, when her great-granddaughter Bessie passed away.

It is my honour to have Janet Selkirk Cross as my great-great-great-grandmother -- my most inspiring ancestor mother.

Who is Your Most Inspiring Mother?

*"The History of the County of Huntingdon and of the Seigneuries of Chateaugay and Beauharnois: From Their First Settlement to the Year 1838"



Linda Maitland, member #4334, contributed the following newspaper article about George Phipps and Jumbo the Elephant as a follow-up to the discussion that took place at the beginning of the April Monthly Meeting. See page 15.

The Free Press, London, Ontario,
November 14, 1947

**ELEPHANT LOST BOUT WITH
TRAIN - SO DID ENGINE**

The flickering beam of a carbide lamp on the front of the Grand Trunk Western locomotive shone down the gleaming tracks as engineer **George Phipps** rolled his freight through **St. Thomas**. Suddenly he jumped to close the throttle and slam on the brakes as his eyes picked out two elephants on the tracks ahead. He couldn't stop in time and the engine hurled one elephant down the embankment. The other, larger of the two, fled before the onrushing ironhorse, then turned and was struck head on.

So died **Jumbo**, one of the largest and most famous elephants ever to charm children in the circus ring.

This happened in September 1885 and the incident now was recalled by the retirement from the Canadian Pacific Railway of veteran engineer Charles A. Phipps, of 830 Lorne Avenue. It was Charles Phipps' father who manned the soft coal burner which snuffed out Jumbo's life.

A family record of more than 100 years of continuous railroading came to an end with the younger Mr. Phipps' retirement. He ended 44 years service with the London division of CPR, 39 of them as locomotive engineer on runs across Western Ontario.

Mr. Phipps' grandfather, Samuel Phipps, piloted tooting little engines in England before coming to Canada in the mid-1800s to assist in building the old Great Western Railroad.

He had five sons and they all followed the iron rails, manning the throttles on locomotives in various parts of the country. One of these, Mr. Phipps' father, was engineer on the Great Western and later on the Grand Trunk Railroad for many years before his death in 1912.

When asked about his record on the railway, Mr. Phipps said he has been railroading for 50 years. He recalls how he used to ride in his father's cab when five years old, carrying his lunch in a tin pail just like the other railway men.

He can remember his father telling him of the night Jumbo was killed. This elephant, still remembered by old timers, was billed by P. T. Barnum as the biggest in the world. Following a performance in St. Thomas, the elephants were being led across the tracks to the railway cages. Jumbo and little **Tom Thumb** were last. As they were crossing the tracks, number 207 thundered into view. The two animals ran away from the noisy giant, but could not outdistance it along the tracks. Tom Thumb was hit first.



Jumbo the Elephant Memorial in St. Thomas - Wikipedia

Jumbo turned to face his attacker and was struck in the face, one mighty tusk piercing his brain. The engine and two cars were derailed. It took a large wrecking crew many hours to shift the 7 ton carcass.

When the locomotive returned from the repair shops, a tin elephant, trunk erect in the trumpeting position, was mounted on the front of the headlight. Wherever number 207 hauled freight, people knew that was the engine which killed Jumbo.



Picture caption: *When the Grand Trunk locomotive which struck and killed the mighty Barnum elephant, "Jumbo" came back into service after the accident, it had a metal elephant mounted on the headlamp to commemorate the accident. This picture was taken in the Saint Thomas Roundhouse in 1885. George Phipps, the engineer who drove the locomotive into Jumbo, is standing on the cowcatcher and wearing the bowler hat, standard equipment with railway engineers of that time. Charles Phipps, his son, later an engineer also and recently retired, is the boy standing on the front of the engine. The trumpeting elephant can be seen on the headlight.*



Linda Maitland also included a part of George Phipp's obituary. It seems that he was highly regarded and that the accident that killed Jumbo wasn't a blemish on his career. No doubt, however, the incident with Jumbo haunted him throughout his life.

MR. GEORGE PHIPPS DEAD - VETERAN G.T.R. ENGINEER

Was Out on Monday But Succumbed to Sudden Attack of Pneumonia

Mr. George Phipps, one of the oldest and best known engineers on this middle division of the Grand Trunk Railway, died this morning at his residence, 433 Simcoe Street, after an illness of but a few days. Mr. Phipps, who was 63 years of age, had been an engineer on the Grand Trunk for nearly 40 years, and on the Great Western Company for several years before that. There was possibly no engineer on the line better or more favorably known and his friends in every department were shocked to hear of his death this morning.

Source: Unnamed newspaper of February 29, 1912

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

BCGS EVENTS

May 1	BCGS Seminar Series - Janice Nickerson - via Zoom - 9:30 to 12:30
May 3	Exploring Genetic Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 1 to 3 pm
May 6	Chinese Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 to 11 am
May 6	Ontario Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
May 8	Quebec Questers Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 am to noon
May 12	BCGS Members' Meeting - via Zoom - 7:00 pm
May 13	Organizing Your Research - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
May 17	Exploring Genetic Genealogy (NPE) Chat - via Zoom - 1 to 3 pm
May 18	Advanced DNA Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
May 20	England Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
May 27	Scandinavia Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
June 3	Chinese Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 to 11 am
June 3	Ireland Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
June 5	BCGS Seminar Series – Lucille Campey - via Zoom - 9:30 to 12:30
June 7	Exploring Genetic Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 1 to 3 pm
June 9	BCGS Members' Meeting - via Zoom - 7:00 pm
June 10	The Historical Photo Detective - via Microsoft Teams - 10 am to noon
June 10	Scotland Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
June 12	Quebec Questers Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 am to noon
June 17	British Columbia Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm
June 21	Exploring Genetic Genealogy (NPE) Chat - via Zoom - 1 to 3 pm
June 24	England Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 7 to 9 pm



Mother's Day - May 9, 2021



See our May Calendar Page for other special event days

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

CLOSED during the Covid 19 Pandemic

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.
