

# BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

GENEALOGY NEWS - ABOUT OUR MEMBERS - FOR OUR MEMBERS

September 1, 2020

Volume 5, Issue 9

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Bill Clayton, BCGS President president@bcgs.ca

When the Covid-19 crisis started, we all thought, 'Now what are we going to do?' or maybe even 'The sky is falling!' Happily, the sky did

not fall and some of us are wondering how to find time for all the things we're involved in every day.

Since our BCGS meetings began "Zooming" online, our monthly Members' Meetings are attracting more members and guests than we've ever had on a regular basis during the past ten years. Similarly, the Special Interest Group meetings are attracting more attendees than before. Members who don't live in the Lower Mainland and those who have not been able to attend our in-person meetings are now regularly participating via Zoom. In this respect, Covid-19 has produced unexpected positive outcomes for our Society. Watch your email in-boxes for invitations to attend future BCGS meetings and workshops via Zoom.

Our librarian, Corrine Jubb, and her team have been able to open the library, by appointment, on Saturdays from 10 AM – 3 PM. Email <u>library@bcgs.ca</u> for more info.

Have you visited our new website <a href="www.bcgs.ca">www.bcgs.ca</a> recently? The Website Team - Sheila Albrecht, Jan Graf & Ann Buchanan - continue to provide our members with more information and resources on a weekly basis. If it's been a while since you visited the website, check out the new additions, especially in the 'Members Only' areas.

When Covid-19 restrictions finally end, members who are not able to attend our 'in person' meetings will still be able to attend via Zoom or other video conferencing.

If you have questions, suggestions or constructive criticism about any of our electronic meetings, the library, the website or our society, don't hesitate to contact me at <a href="mailto:president@bcgs.ca">president@bcgs.ca</a>.

Until next time, stay safe and happy while you're searching for dead (& live) relatives.





will take place on
WEDNESDAY, September 9, 2020
Via ZOOM

See page 8 for details

LABOUR DAY - SEPTEMBER 7, 2020



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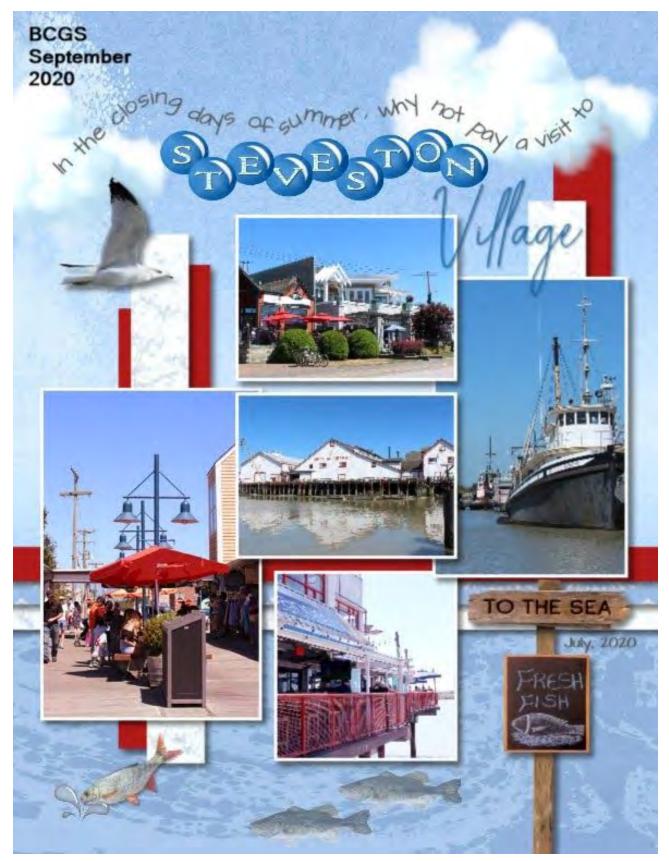
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Check our website www.bcgs.ca for more detail about our Society

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

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







Photos and poster by June Gauntley, member #5112 This poster is from June's trip to Steveston Village. She tells us it was such a gorgeous day that she fashioned a poster from her pictures of the area.

## MESSAGE FROM THE BCGS WEBSITE TEAM



## There have been several exciting additions to the BCGS Website

#### **Research Aids**

To assist members with their research, whether they are old hands at it or brand new, we've been adding more "Tools" to the website.

The **first** is available to everyone and is under the Resources tab. It is **Printable Genealogy Forms & Tools,** located at <a href="https://www.bcgs.ca/general-forms">https://www.bcgs.ca/general-forms</a>. Here you will find forms to help you document your genealogy research. These are still useful, even in our very digital world.

The **second** is under the Member Resources tab and is for members only. It is **Research Help & Tools**. You will find it in the dropdown menu under Member Resources. The "*Victoria 1860 Directory*" is now posted. We are also posting reference material that may help you decipher details you find in historical material & documents.

### **Membership Sale Continues**

Just a reminder that our membership sale is still on. Until October 31st, new members can join for \$35 (instead of \$45) at the following link - <a href="https://www.bcgs.ca/newmember/bcgs-full-member">https://www.bcgs.ca/newmember/bcgs-full-member</a> - to take advantage of all member benefits until December 2020.

### The Website Team is Transitioning to Maintenance Mode

The Website Team is now moving their primary focus to site maintenance and updating. Don't worry, we will still be actively adding new material to the site. In fact, we welcome suggestions from the membership of ideas for new content. Any suggestions will be reviewed by the web team (and the BCGS Executive, if necessary) for relevance to BC research, our Mission and Vision. We invite you to email your ideas to <a href="websater@bcgs.ca">webmaster@bcgs.ca</a> for review.

We would also like to thank those members who have found the occasional broken link on the site for bringing it to our attention. With as many links as we have on the website, we appreciate a heads-up when you find anything amiss.



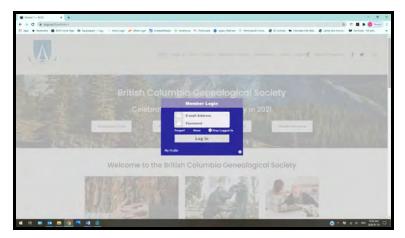




## MEMBER RESOURCES LOG-IN INFORMATION

BCGS paid members can log in to access the "Member Resources" areas as follows: Click on "Log In" on the Main Menu Bar at the top of the page.

The following screen will display.



Enter: The e-mail address you provided to the BCGS.

Password: The letters bcgs & your member number example - bcgs9999 - all lower case with no spaces.
(No zeros required if your member number is between
1 and 999 - example - bcgs999)
Click "Log In".

If you enter an incorrect email address or password, you will not be able to log in. If that happens, please contact the <a href="webmaster@bcgs.ca">webmaster@bcgs.ca</a> for assistance. They can provide you with the email address that the BCGS has on record for you and / or password assistance.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE BCGS eJOURNAL EDITOR



## Lynne Fletcher, BCGS eJournal Editor

Summer will soon be officially 'over', and autumn beckons us from the hills.

This year's summer has been one of a kind, unlike any previous ones, with unusual restrictions and problems. As I touch base with other genealogists, I find that they haven't just been sitting at home, but are busy continuing their research using new programs, techniques, and sources. They've been attending on-line webinars and recorded seminars, using on-line libraries to locate documents, and discovering the joys of on-line meetings (Zoom!) to talk to other researchers and members.

Did you find an interesting piece of information using one of these new (to you) methods this summer? Could you share the details of how you did it and the results that this new piece brought to your family tree? Genealogists are a persistent lot, and usually have a Plan B and a Plan C when they're chasing the trail. We would love to hear about your results and any good tips that you might have for the chase.

I'm looking forward to your stories. Please send them to <a href="Journal@bcgs.ca">Journal@bcgs.ca</a>



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

## **BCGS POSTCARD COLLECTION**



#### POSTCARDS OF THE MONTH

The Story Behind a Picture Postcard - STEWART, B.C. Janice Kidwell, member #5033

While searching through the postcards to choose one for this Newsletter, I came across this one for Stewart, B.C.

In September 2007, my husband and I planned a road trip, the instigation being that I wanted to visit Prince Rupert where my father and his family lived for a number of years. My grandfather had worked as a fireman and was one of the men involved in setting up the first Pipe Band there.

We looked at a map, chose where we wanted to go, made our reservations and off we went. The weather was perfect – even in **Prince Rupert** – and we enjoyed everywhere we went, including **Smithers**, where at a garage sale, I bought a book on **Sandon**, **B.C.** 

One of the places we ventured to was **Stewart, B.C.** When I look at this postcard I wonder how we got there (Hyder is on the left, Stewart on the right) but the roads were good and the scenery was beautiful. While there, we visited the Stewart Museum which is a hidden gem and well worth visiting. It is operated by the Stewart

Historical Society (est. 1975). My father had mined at **Premier** so I had an added interest in the Museum.

We also drove to **Hyder, Alaska** and were lucky that day to safely see from a raised platform a number of bears eagerly awaiting the salmon that were traveling upstream.



Air Photo by John Hembling. Distributed by Dollie's Photos, Box 22, Hyder, Alaska. No message or stamp on the back.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

#### NEW MEMBERS of the BCGS

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

5797 Adrianna CULVER of Seattle, WA, USA

5798 Barbara SCOTT of Halfmoon Bay, BC

5799 Daniel STREHLAU of Los Angeles, CA, USA

5800 Bonnie WATTS of Vancouver, BC

5801 Mia TAYLOR of Sooke, BC

5802 Lesley ENGLAND of Surrey, BC

5803 Christol Lee JAMES of Campbell River, BC

5804 Ian STEWART of New Westminster, BC

5805 Carol O'CONNELL of Renton, WA, USA



#### **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 **Membership** at membership@bcgs.ca



## MEMBERSHIP FEE REDUCTION until October 31, 2020

Do you have friends or family members who would like to join the BCGS? Now is a good time to introduce them to the Society.



A partial year membership for newcomers to our society is available from now until October 31st for \$35.00 - and the membership would continue until December 31, 2020.

Those joining as of November 1st will receive the last two months of 2020 and the membership will be valid until December 31, 2021 - the fee is \$65.00, as voted for at the 2020 AGM.

#### YOUR ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES FREE ACCESS to the BCGS RESEARCH TEAM

## Ann Buchanan, BCGS Research Co-ordinator

Despite the Covid-19 restrictions, the BCGS Research Team can still search the Clippings Index, Cemetery Recordings, Vancouver Sun Newspapers - 1999 to 2012 obituaries, and various other databases which BCGS has digitally produced.

If you are a member of the BCGS, email Ann with your queries at <a href="mailto:queryrequest@bcgs.ca">queryrequest@bcgs.ca</a>. 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 at <a href="https://20575.rmwebopac.com/">https://20575.rmwebopac.com/</a> to help you prepare for your next visit to the library.

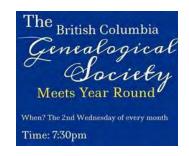
## **BCGS MEMBERS' MEETINGS**

News about both upcoming and previous members' meetings

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

THE NEXT MEETING is WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9th, 2020



Featuring the Webinar: Scotland's Old Parish Registers: How to Access, Use, and Interpret, Part 1

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

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



#### **OCTOBER to DECEMBER 2020**



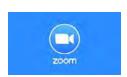
All group meetings are cancelled for the foreseeable future.

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

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

## ABOUT the WEDNESDAY, September 9th BCGS MEMBERS' MEETING via ZOOM

- Our previous Members' Meetings via Zoom were well attended; therefore, we are continuing with this program for the September meeting.
- An invitation from the BCGS to the September 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 September 7th, please contact the editors of this Newsletter at <a href="mailto:newsletter@bcgs.ca">newsletter@bcgs.ca</a>
- Each member needs a 'free' Zoom account to participate.
- The meeting will follow the usual format for in-person meetings. There will be some time for a Q&A session.
- For the Education portion of the meeting:
- Scotland's Old Parish Registers: How to Access, Use, and Interpret, Part 1 Presented by Paul Milner, each webinar is approximately 23 minutes long. We will be watching Part 1 only. A free handout is available for downloading from FamilySearch, and covers both Parts 1 & 2.

## LOOKING BACK at the AUGUST MEETING

#### The FIFTH BCGS Members' Meeting via Zoom

Our fifth Members' Meeting proved as or more popular than previous meetings via Zoom with at least 69 members logging in. Some squares hold more than one person and a number of people have chosen to listen in without a screen presence. When asked who was sitting in from a distance, **Claudia Cote** of Powell River introduced herself. **Christine Manzer**, President of the United Empire Loyalists, Vancouver Branch, also spoke for that association. More locally, **Suzanne** from North Vancouver, a first time attender, chimed in.

The business portion of the meeting was begun with the Approval of the Minutes of the July Members' Meeting; moved by **Jim Graham** and seconded by **Linda Maitland**. A report was given by **Bill Clayton** regarding the 2021 Anniversary Cruise about new advantages through the prepayment program as well as mention of the presentation **Parental Puzzles** by the **Reverend Fletcher** of Kelowna on August 24th. **Corrine Jubb**, BCGS Genealogical Library Administrator, gave a review of the partial reopening schedule starting August 15th. **Barry Kirk**, a 20 year volunteer of the Salt Lake City Library, tells us that the SLC Library has not reopened as yet, nor have the local LDS Family History Libraries in Burnaby and Surrey.



Once again, the **Members Voice** section of the meeting was brought to our attention. Anyone with a story to relate about a research discovery is welcome to contact our President, Bill Clayton, <a href="mailto:president@bcgs.ca">president@bcgs.ca</a> to ask for time to speak during the meeting. It is a casual undertaking and we are always glad to hear about someone's genealogical success. At this meeting, a number of members spoke up:

- Ann Buchanan attended a Celebration of Life on Vancouver Island recently and had a conversation about "The Book of Kershaws" by Adrian Kershaw. Two sets of Kershaws were at the venue which prompted Ann to ask if the book was in the BCGS Library. He said 'no' as he didn't consider it worthy of being held by a library, not realizing the BCGS Library is a genealogical library. It was a family research book which he had followed through the Gold Rush Trail in the Yukon. However, there are three other "Kershaw" books in our Library: The Bute Inlet Route: Alfred Waddington's Wagon Road 1862 1864 by Adrian Kershaw with John Spittle, and two books by Roger Kershaw: New Lives for Old, The Story of Britain's Child Migrants with Janet Sacks and Emigrants and Expats: A guide to sources on UK Emigration and residents overseas.
- Mary Turnbull spoke about her mother's family of nine children. This family has ancestral maiden names as middle names which allows a search for other family members. One had the name of Marion Vetch which took Mary back to the 1700s. Her comment that 'naming patterns can help' is quite true.
- Celia Lewis announced the Beginners Live Class not a webinar but an interactive teaching class which is free for BCGS members. For non-members, the special fee for the remainder of the 2020 year of \$35.00 will give them access to the class. The classes will be 1-1/2 to 2 hours long. Celia has done this many times previously and very much enjoys the process.

Sean Vanderflut

| Speaker Vow | Speaker Vow



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#### LAST POST FUND UNMARKED GRAVE PROGRAM PRESENTATION

The Last Post Fund Unmarked Grave Program's objective is to provide a permanent military marker for Veterans who lie in unmarked graves. <a href="https://www.lastpostfund.ca/EN/UGP.php">https://www.lastpostfund.ca/EN/UGP.php</a>





Representatives and very active members of the Last Post Fund, **Kyle Stewart** (left) and **Bobbi Foulds** (below) of Alberta, joined the BCGS Members' Meeting on Wednesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> to inform our membership about the military service men and women whose graves remain unmarked by a headstone. BCGS members **George Coburn**, President, and **Frank Gavaghan**, Vice President, of the Royal

Canadian Legion Branch No. 177, Vancouver, made the arrangements for Kyle and Bobbi to speak at our meeting.

It was a fascinating presentation as both Kyle and Bobbi have extensive knowledge about the reasons for such a program and the ways in which those who served and are 'lost' can be found and remembered through grave markers. It is a large undertaking and many hands can help to discover these unmarked graves and provide the information towards having a headstone installed through the fund. Anyone who wishes to volunteer can begin by reading through Bobbi's "How to Start" handout which follows:

## "So you want to help find unmarked veterans' graves? Congratulations!!"

You have just joined the world's most amazing treasure hunt that will leave you feeling wonderful when you finally help these fallen heroes tell their story to the world.

1) The first place to start is, of course, the local cemetery, but we need to prepare a bit first. This means contacting the town or city for a map of the cemetery with a list of those buried. They can't give you anyone's info that is more recent than 1985 (FOIP) but this is a start.

Go for a walk in the cemetery, take time to visit with the known veterans there while looking for those who don't have markers. Focus on the field of honor areas. If there are rows with blank spots,



or sunken spots, or something marked with old wooden crosses, then this is a candidate for the Unmarked Grave Program. Remember, the Unmarked Grave Program only applies to those who have been unmarked for five (5) years or more. The date of death is very important.

Now we cross reference those you've identified as having no known markers with Veteran names.

**2a)** The best place to look for veteran names is your local Royal Canadian Legion.

Ask them for a list of their deceased veterans, preferably with date of birth and date of death. Their service number, if possible (this will be needed to submit to the Last Post Fund if an unmarked grave is found) can be provided if needed.

- **2b)** The Legion Magazine Last Post is an online, searchable tool that can help identify veterans who may need our help. It is great for those who passed away since 1987 and were known to the Legion at the time of their death. <a href="https://legionmagazine.com/en/last-post/">https://legionmagazine.com/en/last-post/</a> From here you can search by last name, location, Legion Branch, or Service Information.
- **2c)** You can try British Columbia vital statistics or archives, newspaper archives (I like the newspapers.com a paid subscription but well worth it when you find an obituary!) <a href="http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/Results?as.type\_death=true&as.last\_name=arcand&search=Search&pageSize=100">http://search-collections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/Genealogy/Results?as.type\_death=true&as.last\_name=arcand&search=Search&pageSize=100</a>

(continued on next page)

## LOOKING BACK AT THE AUGUST MEETING - Last Post Fund, cont'd

Check with your local museum as they usually have lists of veterans. Libraries may have town or city histories with lists of those who went to war as well. Keep a journal or record of who you have searched for and where as it can get confusing when one lead ties to another and another.

**3)** You will need to prove they are a veteran of Canada or her allies. Remember we are here to help! The basic information that the LPF needs is the full name, date of birth, date of death and when they served (Canadian Forces) and they can take it from there. If your unmarked Veteran is a US Force or a UK Allied Veteran then we need to find proof (discharge certificates, service papers, pay stub or War Veteran Allowance papers, obituary, etc.) before sending to the LPF.

WW1 veterans are the simplest to verify as the Canadian records have been opened for public view. <a href="http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx">http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/first-world-war/personnel-records/Pages/search.aspx</a> I'd recommend only typing in the last name, then sorting the results once populated. If you have a service number start with that.

Depending on their date of birth your person could be a veteran of the South African war (Boer...) Those records can be found here:

http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/south-african-war-1899-1902/Pages/search.aspx

Another potential find is the medals and honor roll found at:

http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/military-medals-1812-1969/Pages/search.aspx

I have also added a link to our Facebook group "Unmarked Graves, Cemeteries & Fields of Honor Projects" where you can view our success stories with the Last Post Fund.

https://www.facebook.com/groups/1999526880139630/

If you are searching from a distance, then you can start the process online; there are several resources online that can help narrow down a potential "find."

www.findagrave.com allows you to search specific cemetery sites, or browse names, locations etc. Keep in mind this is a volunteer based site, so it is not 100% accurate. Sometimes there are stones already in place even if no photo is available.

<u>www.Canadianheadstones.com</u> is another similar site where you can search names.

Of course, there are paid subscription sites such as <a href="https://www.ancestry.ca">www.ancestry.ca</a> (some libraries carry accounts for public use) and by all means make use of the Remembrance Day/Week issues of the newspapers. Many will carry tributes to area veterans.

I am always available to help remotely if needed. Please don't hesitate to ask questions. If I can't answer them, I know someone will be able to!

Happy Hunting!

Bobbi Foulds, Last Post Fund - AB Branch

rfoulds@telus.net 780-723-1364 cell (call or text)







## **BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY**

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

WELCOME

BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

OPEN TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS AND

SATURDAYS

10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.

BRITISH COLUMBIA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

## **BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY**

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

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

## The BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY

opened as of August 15th

## BY APPOINTMENT

to MEMBERS on SATURDAYS

See our Library Administrator Corrine Jubb's

information below for more details

## **NEWS from the LIBRARY STACKS - A LIMITED LIBRARY RE-OPENING**



## **Corrine Jubb, Library Administrator**

The BCGS library is now open for researchers on **Saturdays by appointment.** We ask our visitors to supply and wear a mask and to social distance while at the library. On August 15th, we welcomed our first visitors since the library closed in March due to Covid-19.

If you would like to **book an appointment**, please email <a href="mailto:library@bcgs.ca">library@bcgs.ca</a>

If you wish to **pick up books**, please email <u>library@bcgs.ca</u> with your list of up to 5 books (title and dewey decimal number), and we will arrange a pickup day and time with you. Please include your phone number for us to easily confirm the pickup and availability of the books. The library catalogue on the BCGS website is at <a href="https://20575.rmwebopac.com/">https://20575.rmwebopac.com/</a> You do not have to log into the Members Resources to search the catalogue.

## BCGS GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY has AFFILIATE LIBRARY STATUS with FamilySearch.org

## Images Available

To view these images you must do one of the following:

- Access the site at a family history center
- · Access the site at a FamilySearch affiliate library

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











## BCGS GENEALOGY CHATS - SOME ARE TAKING PLACE via ZOOM\*

## Coffee Chats at the **BCGS Genealogical Library**

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

#### **QUEBEC QUESTERS CHAT**

2nd Saturday of each month Sept 12 & Oct 10 via Zoom\* 10 am to noon

With Linda Maitland

lindamaitland@telus.net



## **EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY**

2nd Saturday of each month 4th Monday of most months Next chat TBA

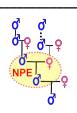
With Sharon Clayton

Please pre-register <a href="mailto:sharonjmclayton@gmail.com">sharonjmclayton@gmail.com</a>

## **EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY** Parental Puzzles (NPE)

3rd Monday of most months With Sharon Clayton

sharonimclayton@gmail.com



#### **BC GENEALOGY CHAT**

Next chat TBA With Janet White jwhite@telus.net







#### **MAC/REUNION GROUP**

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

With Bill Clayton

weclayton45@gmail.com



#### **SOFTWARE for GENEALOGY**

Next chat TBA With Angus Glass

liliardsedge@aol.com



#### **SCOTLAND GENEALOGY CHAT**

Next chat TBA With Eunice Robinson eunice@genbug.ca



### **ENGLAND GENEALOGY CHAT**

Next chat TBA With Rob Whitlock

robw.whitlock@gmail.com



#### **IRELAND GENEALOGY CHAT**

Next chat TBA With Eunice Robinson eunice@genbug.ca



## ATLANTIC GENEALOGY CHAT

Next chat TBA With Keith MacNutt jkeithmacnutt@gmail.com



#### **ONTARIO GENEALOGY CHAT**

Next chat TBA With Janet White iwhite@telus.net



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





#### **SAVE THOSE PULL TABS and CANS!**



**Bill Clayton** advises us that he has returned pop bottles and cans to the recycling depot to the tune of **\$201.70** for this month and a total of **\$301.20**. A small amount, perhaps, but these funds will go towards upkeep of the Library.

Members - please do save and bring your returnables when you stop by the library and Bill will see them returned and funded to the library. Each donated tab or can makes a difference to our BCGS budget.

#### THE BOARD ROOM WINDOW is GONE - This is a good thing!



**Bill Clayton** is also working on the interior Board Room window area. The window has now been removed and replaced with a wall sufficiently strong enough to hold the large TV donated last year. The TV will be used for research presentations when the library is back in full operation.

Left: The window area reinforcement in the wall of the Board Room. Right: Bill sanding the now closed window space.



## **BCGS NEWS**

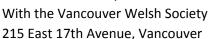
News about new members, positions, committees and contests within the Society

## **BCGS Special Interest Groups**

These are BCGS genealogy groups that meet elsewhere

#### **WELSH GROUP**

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



(Downstairs, enter from the back of the building)

csmythe@telus.net

Postponed until further notice







Going beyond basics: Chinese genealogy 1st Thursday of each month, 10 - 11 am September 3 & October 1 via ZOOM\*

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

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



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

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

\*Via Zoom - email Linda Yip at <a href="mailto:hello@past-presence.com">hello@past-presence.com</a> and you will be sent an invitation to join the meeting via Zoom.



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 and announcements for upcoming BCGS events are posted in this account. Open to non-BCGS members too. You can join here: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/bcgenealogy/">https://www.facebook.com/bcgenealogy/</a>

**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: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/bcgsdiscussion">https://www.facebook.com/groups/bcgsdiscussion</a>

## SURREY MUSEUM EXHIBIT VISITS Susan Sullivan - member #4887

BCGS has joined with the Museum of Surrey and the Surrey Family History Center to present an exhibit focusing on family history and discovery. The exhibit is called "Discover Your Story" and is presently available via Facebook and Instagram from your own home.

Many thanks to BCGS members Susan Sullivan and Eunice Robinson who helped make this exhibit possible.

If you would like to take a **private in-person tour** (with Covid-19 restrictions), please contact Susan Sullivan at <a href="mailto:graphics@familyancestrees.com">graphics@familyancestrees.com</a>. More information about the exhibit can be obtained via the BCGS July 1 Newsletter, page 4.

#### **EXPLORING GENETIC GENEALOGY - PARENTAL PUZZLES**

### Reverend L.R. Fletcher from Kelowna, BC shared his life story

Ann Buchanan's DNA research resulted in identifying a previously unknown biological father for **Rev. Leo Richard (Dick) Fletcher,** who is Ann's daughter-in-law's grandfather. Rev. Dick Fletcher was 92 years old before he knew who his father was. Now he is 94 and was keenly interested in sharing his story at an Exploring Genetic Genealogy "Parental Puzzles" Special Interest Group via Zoom.

Mr. Fletcher is a retired clergyman and spokesperson for Canadian veterans at the UBC Kelowna campus. He made his presentation via Zoom from his home in Kelowna. Read his story on the following page.



Left: Ann
Buchanan,
Mickey and Rev.
Fletcher

Right: Mickey and her grandfather



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## It's Never Too Late - by Ann Buchanan and Sharon Clayton

**Rev. Leo (Dick) Richard Fletcher** was the 94-year-old guest speaker at the Parental Puzzles Special Interest DNA Group on August. 24<sup>th</sup>. The presidents of Kelowna & District Genealogical Society and the Campbell River Genealogy Society were among the 18 people who attended via Zoom.

Ann Buchanan's slides demonstrated how working with Ancestry DNA, MyHeritage, and Family Tree DNA helped to solve the puzzle.

Rev. Fletcher describes his childhood with his chosen parents as happy and normal. His story began in 1926, when Jean Stevens and Hazel Fletcher met and became friends at the Beulah Home for Unfortunate Women and Girls, a private home for unwed mothers. Jean's sister, Deborah Stevens Knowles, was not able to have children, so when Jean told Deborah that Hazel needed a home for her 6-month-old son, Dick, Deborah and her husband Tom decided to adopt him. Legal adoptions were expensive, so Dick's adoption was an informal one. He grew up thinking that Deborah Knowles was his mother and Hazel Fletcher (1908 – 1978) was his aunt.

In 1942, at the age of 42, Deborah, died from a reaction to novocaine, administered during a dental treatment. Dick was in his mid-teens when he discovered a birth certificate while snooping through a cigar box of papers he found with his recently-deceased mother's belongings. When questioned about it, his aunt explained that the certificate was his.

That was how he learned that "Aunt Hazel", the woman he had been writing to since he was 5-years-old, and who visited his home every year, was his birth mother. When Rev. Fletcher was 16, he tried to join the Royal Canadian Navy. He was instructed to return with his birth certificate and his father when he turned 18. When he joined the navy at the age of 18, there was some confusion. Throughout his life, he had been known by his adopted name of Dick Knowles, but his birth certificate showed his name as Leonard Richard Fletcher. The navy recruiter told Dick he had to use the name on his birth certificate. After several years of using that name, he decided to keep it.

Decades later, with the help of DNA research, 92-year-old Rev. Fletcher learned the name of his biological father - Charles John Pyle/Pile (1902 – 1981). Saskatchewan's 1921 census shows that Hazel and Charles were living only a few farms away from each other. Hazel gave birth to Dick at about the same time that Charles married another woman. Both women were pregnant at the same time.

Like most families, the Fletcher dynasty has taken many turns. Hazel Fletcher married twice and had children with both husbands. There have been adoptions and remarriages, but Rev. Fletcher feels fortunate that the siblings and half-siblings are accepting of each other, and get along as well as any family.

He is glad to know who his birth parents are, but considers Deborah and Tom Knowles to be his chosen

parents. He understands that things were different in 1926, but in today's society, it does not really matter what a family looks like. Family is a feeling, not a piece of paper.



Email from Colin MacGregor Stevens, CD, member #5088

Re: Genetic Cousins within BCGS

I wonder how many unsuspecting genetic cousins, i.e. those who share some DNA, are amongst our members. Some time ago, **Sharon Clayton** spotted **Colin MacGregor Stevens** listed on her shared DNA GEDmatch list. Now it has happened again. **Frances Ingram** has spotted Colin's photo on her DNA list. In both cases, we have worked out tentative paper trails. Science tells us that all humans are related. I wonder how many other members of BCGS unwittingly share some significant DNA? The moral of this story is to be nice to strangers, because you may turn out to be fairly closely related!

## **BCGS 50th ANNIVERSARY ALASKA CRUISE - SEPTEMBER 2021**

A NOTE from the BCGS BOARD of DIRECTORS re the 2021 BCGS 50th Anniversary Alaska cruise. At this time, with the current pandemic, it is impossible to speculate on where the world will be in 2021. The organizing committee is hopeful that the cruise will proceed as scheduled or possibly be postponed past the point when a vaccine is available.

To keep up with the latest news about the cruise, join our Facebook group.

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





## Holland America PrePayment Promo LIMITED TIME — SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2020!

GENEALOGY CRUISE WITH BLAINE BETTINGER & MARY KATHRYN KOZY

\$250 USD

On-Board Spending Credit

Per Cabin for \$750 USD installment payment\* made by Sept 30, 2020

RECEIVE A
\$50 USD
On-Board Spending Credit

Per Cabin for \$250 USD installment payment" made by Sept 30, 2020

2 RECEIVE A \$125 USD

On-Board Spending Credit Per Cabin for \$500 USD installment

payment" made by Sept 30, 2020

10% Discount\*
PLUS \$250 USD

On-Board Spending Credit
Per Cabin for Full Prepayment<sup>†</sup>
made by Sept 30, 2020

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

#### How could we use these on-board credits?

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

#### QUESTIONS?

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

\*\*Early installment payments MUST be applied to cruise fare balances. This offer is limited to ONE onboard credit per cabin, regardless of the number of installment payments and/or the value of each installment payment. \$250 USD is the maximum allowable onboard credi\*\*
10% discount applies to the gross cruise-only base fare per cabin (not per person.) It does not apply to taxes, expenses, or port fees.
†Full payment means full balance of bookings, including (without limitation): Air Fares, Excursions, Transfers, and Hotels.

**Update** - While navigating the Covid-19 lockdown through Phases 1 and 2, our travel agent Robert Marcoux has been busy behind the scenes, securing free perks for those of us who have booked to sail aboard Holland America's Nieuw Amsterdam in September 2021.

Guests who have booked our group tour will receive:

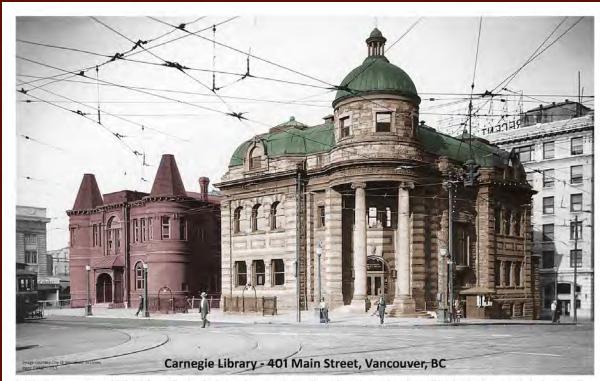
- Free Gratuities
- · Free Premium Drink Packages
- · Free Dining Experiences: Make two reservations (when onboard) to any of the A La Carte Restaurants at no charge, except for gratuities.

While we wait for this untimely pandemic to run its course, Robert is reassuring. He says, "We are in a safe place to leave things as they are until June 14, 2021. All booking fees (including cruise and shore excursions) that Holland America has received for our cruise are fully refundable until that date."

## **BCGS 2020 CALENDAR - AUGUST, 2020**

## **CARNEGIE LIBRARY, 401 MAIN STREET, VANCOUVER, BC - 1903**

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



In 1901, Vancouver requested \$50,000 from philanthropist Andrew Carnegie to build a library. Carnegie agreed, on the condition that the city supply the land and contribute \$5,000 a year for its upkeep. The library was completed in 1903. For decades the top floor was home to the Vancouver Museum. The Library expanded into the adjacent former City. Hall in 1929. After the library moved to a larger, modern building in 1957 and the museum relocated in 1968, the Carnegie Library building fell into disrepair. In 1973, the Downtown Eastside Residents' Association led a successful campaign to re-open the building as a community centre. Currently, it houses the VPL's Carnegie Branch, recreation facilities and a low-cost cafeteria.

The Carnegie Library is especially important to former BCGS President Rob Whitlock's family history. Rob's parents (Charles Cecil 'Cec' Whitlock and Eleanor Mary Hawkins) met at the Carnegie Library in the early 1950s, while they were both working as librarians.



## 197I-202I



## Save the Date to Write Your Dates!

The new BCGS 2021 Calendar will be available for order in early October. Watch the web-page to place your order for delivery.

## **GENEALOGY NEWS in BC**

Upcoming events and new genealogical resources in BC



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







## A note from Vancouver Public Library

## **Ancestry Library Edition**

New! VPL cardholders can now enjoy access to Ancestry Library Edition from home for free until **SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**. A popular database for genealogical research, it includes census, baptism, marriage and military records. Visit their genealogy guide for more research help. <a href="https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/ancestry-library-edition">https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/ancestry-library-edition</a>



## An email from Surrey Libraries Family History

Hello everyone,

Firstly, a huge Thank You! to everyone who used the feedback link in my previous email or otherwise contacted the library to advocate for an earlier reopening. There is much to be said for public demand and I am happy to report that most Surrey Libraries will be reopening on September 9, including Cloverdale's Family History Department! The reopening will have some limitations with the Covid19 protocols in place, but at least people will be able to come into the building and use most of our services. Access to library computers (our databases) may have a time limit, and we are not sure yet if it will be by appointment. Those details yet to come and I'll send out another note when we know more.

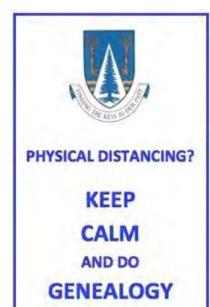
And the other good news is that access from home to the library's Ancestry account has been extended to September 30! This is kindly provided by ProQuest and its partner Ancestry. In order to access, you will need a Surrey Libraries card and be a resident of Surrey, as before. If you live in Surrey and do not have a Surrey Libraries card, you can use this form to apply for an online access card: <a href="https://www.surreylibraries.ca/sign-library-card-home-1">https://www.surreylibraries.ca/sign-library-card-home-1</a>

Updates to our reopening will be on the library home page: www.surreylibraries.ca.

Thank you again for your advocacy and support! Hope to see you in the branch soon.

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

















Learn more or celebrate your Loyalist ancestor(s) with involvement in the UELAC VANCOUVER BRANCH - <a href="http://www.uelac.org/Vancouver/index.php">http://www.uelac.org/Vancouver/index.php</a>

UELAC Vancouver Branch

Please ask to join the Private \* Facebook page if you would like to. There are 3 "admin" people who vet the requests to join. There are questions to answer. These allow us to decline the request of people who are looking for a platform to sell something or are just looking to increase the number of groups they belong to. Currently only 30 of over 150 people on the Facebook site are paid up members of the UELAC Vancouver Branch. Others are friends from across the Genealogy and UE communities. \* Only members can see who's in the group and what they post.

Every Sunday morning the faithful editor of **Loyalist Trails**, Doug Grant UE, sends this e-newsletter to your Inbox if you are subscribed. As a student of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War and the migration and settlement of the Loyalists I learn so much from the articles and links. Link <u>here</u> or copy this URL to subscribe

http://www.uelac.org/Loyalist-Trails/Loyalist-Trails-subscribe.php

## **GENEALOGY NEWS in CANADA**

Upcoming events and new genealogical resources in Canada

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#### 5,345 Free Online Canada City Directories

Snipped from John Reid's blog, Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections, 31 July 2020 <a href="https://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2020/07/5345-free-online-canada-city-directories.html">https://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2020/07/5345-free-online-canada-city-directories.html</a>

The amazing Kenneth R Marks has finished a section on his website The Ancestor Hunt presenting links to free online Canada city directories. It's a collaborative effort with Miriam Robbins, who for years has made available the Online Historical Directories website.

#### **Ancestry Updating Ontario Births and Canada School Yearbooks**

Snipped from John Reid's blog, Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections, 7 August 2020

https://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2020/08/ancestry-updating-ontario-births-and.html

The Ancestry card catalogue is showing these updates:

Ontario, Canada Births, 1832-1914 - Birth, Marriage & Death 6,723,609

Canada, Selected School Yearbooks, 1901-2010 - Directories & Member Lists 2,475,234

## GENEALOGY IN CANADA NEWS, cont'd

#### **Banking Ancestors and WWI on Canadiana**

Snipped from Candice McDonald's blog, Finding Your Canadian Story, 22 August 2020

https://findingyourcanadianstory.blogspot.com/2020/08/

Sometimes you find the most interesting things on Canadiana. I stumbled across a unique resource today that had to do with employees of what is now the CIBC during World War I. From 1915 to 1919, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce published 11 pamphlets titled *LETTERS FROM THE FRONT - Being a partial record of the part played by officers of the Bank in the Great War*. Canadiana has all 11 volumes digitized. According to the pamphlets, by volume 11 in January 1919, a total of 1709 employees had served in the War, with 226 losing their lives.

#### McGill's digital collections

Snipped from John Reid's blog, Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections, 28 August 2020 <a href="https://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2020/08/mcgills-digital-collections.html">https://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2020/08/mcgills-digital-collections.html</a>

If your family roots are in Ontario you're familiar with the McGill University Ontario <u>Beldon Atlas</u> collection providing access to 43 volumes produced between 1874 and 1881. You may not be aware of other McGill resources available online: Canadian Architect and Builder journal, McGill Library Electronic Thesis and Dissertation collection (1881-2018), The Fur Trade in Canada and the North West Company manuscripts, and the Chapbook Collection.

## **DNA GENEALOGY NEWS**

Some web links to help with genetic genealogy research



#### **AncestryDNA and the Longest Segment Match**

Snipped from John Reid's blog, Canada's Anglo-Celtic Connections, 21 August 2020

https://anglo-celtic-connections.blogspot.com/2020/08/ancestrydna-and-longest-segment-match.html

Gradually Ancestry is releasing additional information about our DNA matches. While there still isn't a chromosome browser the longest segment in common with matches is now listed along with the total DNA and number of segments matched.

## VIRTUAL GENEALOGY SEMINARS

Early bird registration opens for Genealogy with a Canadian Twist Virtual Workshop

Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 9 August 2020

https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=32745

The Genealogy with a Canadian Twist Virtual Workshop 2020 takes place Saturday, October 17 with four presentations delivered by Kathryn Lake Hogan, Lianne Kruger, Mags Gaulden, and Christine Woodcock. Registration includes access to all four live presentations, syllabus, and recordings for two weeks after the workshop. Register by September 4 to take advantage of the early bird registration at CDN\$37. Afterward, registration is \$49.







#### Virtual Genealogical Association's 2020 conference

Snipped from Gail Dever's blog, Genealogy à la carte, 12 August 2020

https://genealogyalacarte.ca/?p=32771

The Virtual Genealogical Association's conference, taking place November 13 to 15, 2020, features an international list of well-known speakers and 22 presentations. All sessions will be recorded and available for six months. The registration fee is US\$59 for members (CDN\$79) and US\$79 for non-members (CDN\$105). Membership is US\$20, which means it makes sense to join to take advantage of the conference fee for members and the monthly webinars.

## Campbell River Genealogy Society Join us Saturday Nov 7th and Saturday Nov 14th

#### FALL VIRTUAL SEMINAR

\$25 includes all 4 sessions

Eunice Robinson Genealogy Educator & Researcher

## Saturday Nov 7th 2020

9:30 - 10:30

<u>Family Reconstitution</u> - Why should family historians trace the siblings of their ancestors? What are the benefits of doing so? This session/talk will explore the reasons, and the benefits of taking a 'more encompassing' view of the family.

#### 11:00 - 12:00

Where Should I Put My Family History? - One of the biggest dilemmas facing family historians is what to do with my research when I'm no longer here. What format? Who to leave it to? Public or private? These questions and more will be answered during this session/talk.

## Saturday Nov 14th 2020

9:30 - 10:30

<u>Trusting Your Sources</u> - How Do You Know You've Found the Right Record? You've worked hard to collect records for your ancestors, but how do you know you have the right records for the right people? This session/talk gives tips on how to evaluate records to ensure your research is top-notch.

We'll also discuss a compelling case study that seemed watertight... until it wasn't.

#### 11:00 - 12:00

<u>DNA Testing for Genealogy</u> - Find out about the different types of DNA testing that are available and which might be best for your needs. We'll talk about ethnicity estimates, privacy issues and how to use your results and matches to help break through brick walls in your family tree



Marie Palmer Genealogy Educator & Researcher

This is a STAY-AT-HOME SEMINAR

To register send fee by <u>eTransfer</u> to crgstreasurer@gmail.com Include name and email address in note section or/ contact Darlene crgstreasurer@gmail.com Payment due by Oct 31st (non-refundable)



Lost Families Found

## **MEMBERS' CORNER**

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

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## Patrick Keily, member #5414

## As I Recollect - I Remember More about Father Kreinbrink

Around the time of the bat shit incident, I was witness to a display of human understanding that left me

amazed. While working a summer job at the rectory of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Butternut, I was given a demonstration by Father Kreinbrink on just how good he was at reading people.

Our masonry project had a pile of gravel left over and it needed to be removed. Father Kreinbrink suggested dumping it behind a shed, out of view. John, the mason/carpenter, suggested we were busy and that he should help and haul it himself. The priest looked at the rubble, said ok and went inside and returned in work clothes.

Father K. moved the wheelbarrow up to the pile, took the shovel, leaned on it and scanned his surroundings like a captured thief planning an escape. He was about to give in and start work when, "POOF!" Opportunity came knocking. Three young boys on bicycles were riding by, oblivious to us. The priest's training took over.

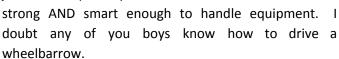
"Oh, boys. Come over here". The three turned around to see what he wanted.



Father K: Hmm, I don't know. I was looking for stronger boys. I doubt you boys are big enough to do this job.

Boys: WE CAN DO IT! WE CAN DO IT! WHAT IS IT? WE'RE STRONG!

Father K: This is a big job, a job that requires you to be



Boys: (Each struggling to get their hands on the wheelbarrow). I DO, I DO, I KNOW HOW!

Father K: Okay, if you boys shovel all this gravel into the wheelbarrow and dump it behind the shed, I'll, (his eyes scanned the area, looking for a reward) I'll, I'll, (found it!) I'll let you drink water from the jug, just like construction workers!

For the next hour or so those three kids busted their rears for a drink of water. From a jug. Warm water. Father Kreinbrink smiled, proud of his accomplishment and relieved he didn't have to do manual labor. I stood next to him and said, "You should have been a psychologist." "What do you think being a priest is all about?" was his reply.

I often find myself at MyHeritage, Ancestry, or FamilySearch, not really looking for anything in particular, just metaphorically riding my bicycle when something catches my eye. It is usually something of no value to my research, just a diversion. Rewards in genealogy research don't have to be great. Sometimes a drink of warm water from a jug is all one needs.



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## Meg McLaughlin, member #3847

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

#### If You Can't Beat Them, Join Them

After a long while, it appears that our BCGS DNA meetings are getting back

on track via Zoom. The recent meeting about the story behind the solution to Rev Dick Francis' paternal puzzle was an interesting one. I wish that I could claim similar success in solving some of my own DNA riddles.

It might help if I devoted more time to sussing out my family matches on the various DNA sites where I have tested. But time doesn't seem to be too plentiful these days and, in a way, some of my present busyness is related to my DNA relatives.

I can remember one session we had back in the day when we could meet in the room upstairs at the BCGS library. We were, at least I was, being introduced to Genetic Affairs, a tool that groups your DNA matches into clusters that are linked to the same family lines. It sounded promising but I ran into a problem which I often have when looking at my Ancestry DNA. I know the family that is represented by the dominant orange



block that showed up in the only autocluster I have run. That's the Tripp family. It's not large because it is a large part of my DNA; it's large because it is one of the few US based family lines that I have. I was only idlily interested in the Tripp

line because there were records but no real family stories handed down. Hardly surprising because my great-grandmother, Lottie Tripp's father, left her behind with her maternal relatives when her mother died and he remarried.

But the thing with having so many people interested in the same family line, is that people work on it and put up websites and Facebook pages. Little by little they draw you in. I thought I was going good when I had my Tripps back to my 4x great grandfather Charles Tripp. He was born in 1761 and fought in the American Revolution (on the other side) before coming to Ontario. Then I added myself to the online Tripp Genealogy master list with what I knew and was handed a well-documented report showing where my Charles fit into the Tripp tree way back to the 1600s.

That report was the carrot. Somehow or other they talked me into doing research and writing about this line. Now my idle interest has turned into a deep dive into the Massachusetts land deeds on FamilySearch. I've become interested in spite of myself. But I can tell myself it's another English family because the first Tripp to come to America wrote that he had come from Horkstow, Lincolnshire before he ended up in Rhode Island. And that explains the riddle of where my Lincolnshire roots, shown by Living DNA, come from.



Lincolnshire outline map attribution:

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Lincolnshire\_outline\_map with UK.png#/media/File:Lincolnshire outline map with UK.png

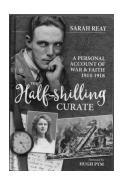


## Focus on an Ancestor - DNA Matching

## Marvin Millis, member #3526

In early March, I received my DNA match report from Ancestry and have found some interesting matches - several connecting to my Switzer

relative, and hence to my **Philip Switzer UE** and to his father, **Peter Switzer**. Peter is an ancestor of **Sarah Reay**, who was at the BCGS Monthly Meeting in August 2018, with whom I have a DNA match.



I have now been in email contact with Sarah. She presented to BCGS a copy of her book, *The Half-Shilling Curate*, which is the story of her grandfather, Herbert W. Cowl, who was a Wesleyan Methodist chaplain attached to the Casualty Clearing Station of the Durham Light Infantry during World War One. I borrowed

the book and was surprised to find that I am its first borrower. I recommend that you read it sometime.

Sarah Reay, although born in England, is a descendant of **Allen Casey Wells** who established the Edenbank Farm at Sardis, BC in the late 1800s. It is Allen's wife, **Sarah Manetta Hodge** who is the descendant of Peter Switzer. Sarah Reay could have a UE certificate as a descendant of **William Casey UE** who was a Quaker.

I've also found matches with persons who have a Ruttan ancestor who lived in the latter 1800s. So far, I have been able to identify five of these matches as descendants of Captain Peter Ruttan UE. I have always maintained that my 3x great-grandmother, Elizabeth Ruttan, is a daughter of Peter Ruttan - but there is no record of her birth or christening. If a record were to be found, I could then have a UE certificate for Peter Ruttan UE. I also match with some who have Lieutenant William Ruttan UE as an ancestor - but as William is a brother to Peter they would have the same Ruttan DNA from their father, William Ruttan Sr.

Another group of DNA matches shows that my grandmother Switzer's line (she was nee Knight)

connects to one **Isaac Knight**, (a Quaker of Abington, PA) who was father of **Mahlon Knight UE** and his brother, **Joshua Knight UE**.

Although my matches are with persons descended from Joshua Knight UE, I am certain that my ancestor is Mahlon Knight UE who settled at Kingston, ON. When my grandmother's father, **Cornelius Knight**, married, the register shows his father's name as **John Knight** - and Mahlon Knight had a son John who received an Ontario land grant as a SUE (son of a UE). Joshua Knight settled at Beaver Harbour on the Bay of Fundy, Nova Scotia.

What I need is to find descendants of Mahlon Knight UE who have taken a DNA test with Ancestry - and who have a family tree on their site!

What is good about matching with Mahlon's father, Isaac, is that this substantiates my claim to be a descendant of Isaac's grandfather, **Mahlon Stacy**, who settled on land in New Jersey which later became the city of Trenton. Mahlon came to New Jersey from Handsworth parish, Sheffield.

Mahlon's 2x great grandfather, **Thomas Parker**, (b. ca. 1500) inherited **Whitley Hall** in Sheffield ca. 1530. It remained in the Parker family for ninety years, at which time it was sold. Whitley Hall has since had additions to its original structure and is now the fabulous Whitley Hall Hotel. Do a Google search for photos of it!

Mahlon's 3x great-grandmother is **Edith Sutton** (b. ca. 1468). I believe Edith to be a great-granddaughter of **John de Sutton**, 5th of Dudley Castle, and have found that another researcher also lists her as his ancestor.

DNA Matching has brought me new relatives, confirmed my previous research and left me hoping for more matches for future connections.



## \*\*\*\*\*\* MARK YOUR CALENDAR \*\*\*\*\*\* **BCGS EVENTS**

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

September 3	Chinese Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 to 11 am
September 9	BCGS Members Meeting - via Zoom - 7:30 pm
September 12	Quebec Questers Chat - via Zoom - 10 am to noon
October 1	Chinese Genealogy Chat - via Zoom - 10 to 11 am
October 10	Quebec Questers Chat - via Zoom - 10 am to noon
October 14	BCGS Members Meeting - via Zoom - 7:30 pm

Happy Labour Day



## Monday, September 7, 2020

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

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

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







Linda Maitland Director (2023)

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