

## Family History Newsletter



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The Family History group supports members in researching their family history research. Members have ancestors from around the globe.

They meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library. Come share your research triumphs, your family treasures, and your family research challenges with the Maple Ridge Family History Group.

Email: [mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com](mailto:mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com)

### British Columbia City Directories: A Gold Mine of Information Part Two

by Gina Leigh

Part one of this article appears in the April 2016 edition of the *Family History Newsletter*.

Was your ancestor an employee of the CPR? In the 1892 directory all their Vancouver employees are named along with their occupations.

In 1905 Henderson's decided to publish City Directories separate from the Provincial Gazetteer due to growth and the difficulty of keeping a sole directory current. In Vancouver "nearly all the streets are graded...important business streets are paved with asphalt, and others are paved with wood blocks on a concrete foundation...Electric tram cars are in...operation..."

The population of Vancouver rose from an estimated 8,000 in 1888 to over 51,000 in 1906.

The S.S. *Skeena* from New Westminster served the 1,000 residents of Port Haney in 1928.

Yukon was included in the 1935 BC and Yukon Directory; individuals and businesses were named in the territory's communities. Dawson had a population of 800.

Over the years separate directories were also printed for locations such as Prince Rupert, Prince George, Vernon and North Okanagan, Nelson, Chilliwack and the East Fraser Valley, amongst others.

These directories provide us not only with the ability to locate people by name and address, but an opportunity to see through various means how our ancestors were affected by the development of their communities.

An enlightening companion document available as a pdf on the Vancouver Public Library website is Elizabeth Walker's *Street Names of Vancouver* (Vancouver Historical Society 1999, Hignell Printing Ltd. ISBN 0-969-2378-7-1); it contains a brief history of street names over the years.



These directories are available online at Vancouver Public Library [www.vpl.ca/bccd/index/php](http://www.vpl.ca/bccd/index/php). The directories are available online from 1860 to 1955. Copies of the books themselves are also available in some locations such as Cloverdale Library.

## 2016 Canada Census

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Here we are—Census Day. Family historians can look forward to release of the *1931 Census of Canada* in 2023. But will our descendants have the opportunity to see the family information we contribute to the *2016 Census*? Be the kind of ancestor you wish your ancestors had been. Keep a copy of your census return. And recommend that your family and friends do the same.

Five things you should know about the *Canadian Census*.

1. The census is mandatory. All Canadians must complete their census questionnaire, either online, through the mail, in person or by phone. The mandatory long-form census replaces the previous voluntary household survey.
2. There are 2 types of census questionnaires. Three out of four Canadians will receive a short-form census with 10 questions, while one out of four will receive a long-form census with 60 questions. The short-form census provides basic household information such as address, marital status and number of children, while the long-form census digs deeper into things like citizenship and immigration status, ethnic background, birthplace of parents, education, income, housing, child care and other support payments, and employment status.
3. The census measures more than just the number of people in Canada and where

they live. Data collected from the census is used to make life easier for people and the communities where they live. Things like traffic congestion, overcrowded schools or new or improved hospitals and retirement centres can all be addressed using information from the census.

4. Your information is protected. Everything you report is kept confidential and is protected by law. Your identity gets separated from your information and is never attached to it again. Take note of the secure access code on your census letter from Statistics Canada. This code is one of the measures in place to ensure you can securely complete your census questionnaire online.
5. The (aggregated, non-nominal) results of the census are released in 2017. The first data release (for population and dwelling counts) is scheduled for Feb. 8, 2017.

Information, about the 2016 Census can be found on the Statistics Canada website.

[www.census.gc.ca/ccr16\\_r000-eng.html](http://www.census.gc.ca/ccr16_r000-eng.html)

## Online Resources

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### Easter Rising

[www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com)

Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> marked the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Easter Rising, in which a group of Irish nationalists began a rebellion against British rule in Ireland. To mark the occasion, Findmypast has launched *The Easter Rising &*

*Ireland Under Martial Law 1916-1921* collection.

### Yorkshire BMD Records

[www.calderdale.gov.uk](http://www.calderdale.gov.uk)

A set of 394,000 birth records have been transcribed from the *Halifax Guardian*, spanning the years 1832 to 1921.

### British Colonist 1858–1951

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

They have added an additional 30 years to the database!

## Family History Events

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### Kelowna and District Genealogical Society

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

- **Harvest Your Family Tree**, bi-annual conference, features 33 workshops and 10 speakers from Canada, UK, and US. September 23–25, 2016. Fee: \$95 for Saturday.

### Maple Ridge Historical Society

<http://mapleridgemuseum.org/>

- **Maple Ridge Cemetery Walking Tour**, Sunday May 14 & Saturday May 21, 2016, 11:00am. Fee: free.

### Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society

<http://stillygen.org/index.php>

- **2016 Northwest Genealogy Conference: Family Secrets Uncovered — Lost History Found**, August 17-20 Arlington WA.

Maple Ridge Family History Group, Wednesday, June 1, 2016, 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library, Fraser Room.