

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.

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Service Records for Canadian WWII War Dead

by Annette Fulford

Ancestry recently updated their database Canada, WWII Service Files of War Dead, 1939-1947 with new records on February 16, 2017. For anyone that had a family member that died during WWII or is doing cenotaph research on men during this era, these records are vital.



It can be difficult to learn just who the names are of the soldiers listed on cenotaphs especially the more recent ones. Most cenotaphs include a surname and their first initial. These young men may have been

born and lived in the community since birth or have been added to the monument after a parent moved to the town.

Some soldiers listed on cenotaphs might have tenuous links to the district at best and those are the hardest to locate information for. It helps to have the full name of the soldier and date of death so that you can learn more about them and how they are connected to the community.

Each record includes recruitment information, details of their service, cause of death, as well as the information about where they are buried. Additional details include information on their family and who their next-of-kin was at the time of their death.

I was able to download the full file of my husband's uncle who died on October 13, 1944. It was 46 pages long. Bernard Eric McKinney was just 21 when he died. He enlisted at age 16 as a trumpeter with the Royal Canadian Artillery in 1939. Once he became of age, he joined Royal Canadian Horse Artillery as a gunner. He died of his wounds while serving abroad and is buried at the Coriano Ridge War Cemetery in Italy.

I am also working to add more info to my database about the men listed on our local cenotaph here in Maple Ridge. While their details may have been known a generation or two ago, I would like to help a new generation learn more about these courageous young men who died for our country.

Sources

- <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/military-heritage/second-world-war/second-world-war-dead-1939-1947/Pages/files-second-war-dead.aspx>
- <http://mapleridgecenotaph.blogspot.ca/>

Online Resources

Ancestry

www.ancestry.ca

- London, England, London Transport Staff Registers, 1863-1931
- Canada, Unemployment Relief for Canadian Settlers, 1932-1939
- Magdeburg, Germany, Cemetery Lists, 1849-1874
- American Protective League Correspondence, 1917-1919
- Saxony, Prussia, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1535-1921
- Hannover, Germany, Lutheran Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1643-1887

Belfast City Council's burial records

www.belfastcity.gov.uk/community/burialrecords/burialrecords.aspx

Around 360,000 records are available from:

- Belfast City Cemetery — records from 1869 (including the Jewish, public and Glenalina extension sections)
- Roselawn Cemetery — records from 1954
- Dundonald Cemetery — records from 1905

Iceland's Family Tree

<https://islendingabok.is/>

The website hosts the online registry Íslendingabók ("The Book of Icelanders"). One can find information about the families of about 720,000 individuals who were born in Iceland at some point in time. Anyone who is registered in the database has free access to it.

Ireland Reaching Out

www.irelandxo.com

Find out who lived where in Ireland, and when. Include your ancestors in their Irish parish of origin and share their stories with descendants around the world today.

FindMyPast

www.findmypast.co.uk

- Scotland Post Office Directories
- Britain, Russian Orthodox Church in London
- Anglo-Boer War Records 1899-1902
- Northamptonshire Baptisms
- Northamptonshire, Northampton General Hospital Admissions 1774-1846

Library and Archives Canada

www.bac-lac.gc.ca/

In mid-February updated the Service Files of WWI database with additional files. The records now include men with the surname starting with Mc.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

<http://abbygs.ca/index.html>

- **Family Reconstitution** with Eunice Robinson, Thursday March 16, 2016, General Meeting at 1:30 pm in Studio 2 The Reach (doors open at 1pm)

Abbotsford Family History Centre

www.abbotsfordfamilyhistory.com

- **Abbotsford Family History Day**, Saturday, April 28, 2017, 8:30am – 3:30pm. 30635 Blueridge Drive Fee: Free.

British Columbia Genealogical Society

www.bcgs.ca/?page_id=2511#.WL-ecTsrJPY

- Canada 150 Seminar – Celebrating our Canadian Ancestors with Dave Obee, Claire Smith-Burns, Mary Read, and Xexia Stanford, June 9 to 11, 2017, Fee: TBD.

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca

- **Orientations**, Saturdays, 10:00-10:50 am, April 1, Pre-registration recommended. Fee: free.
- **Family History Fridays**, April 7, 2:30 pm, Drop in. Join us to share and explore different topics in family history. Fee: Free.
- **Using Ancestry at Cloverdale Library**, April 8, 10:30 am, Fee: Free.

Ontario Genealogical Society

<https://conference2017.ogs.ca/>

- **Our Canada – Your Family: Building a Nation**, June 16-18, 2017, Ottawa, Algonquin College.

Surrey Family History Centre

www.findingyourroots.ca

- **Organize: The Second Prime Directive**, with Brenda L. Smith, March 20, 10 am to noon; March 22, 7 pm to 9 pm. Sign up at the Family History Centre 604-597-9695 Register at: surreyfhc@gmail.com
- **Finding Your Roots Seminar**, October 14, 2017 all day. Speakers to be announced. Free.

Maple Ridge Family History Group, Wednesday, April 5, 2017, 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.