

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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Finding info on Soldiers and Family post WWI

by Annette Fulford

Back in 2015, I received an inquiry about a soldier and his war bride. The person looking for them was a distant relative. Earl Gordon WEST married Maud Beatrice STEVENS in February 1919 near London, England. Records show they arrived in Canada at Halifax on the *Adriatic* in August 1919 and were headed to Manor, Saskatchewan. I gathered as much info as I could about them and set off to find more about them after WWI.

I found Earl West in the 1911 Canadian Census with his parents Frederick Herbert and Christena Katherine West with one sister; Jennie May at Manor, Saskatchewan. He was also listed with his family in the 1916 Canadian Census at Moose Mountain, which is near Manor, SK. The record indicated that he joined the military during WWI and was at a camp in Canada with the 152nd Battalion

I was not able to view his attestation papers online because they are not scanned. I was, however, able to locate his birth in Ontario in the birth registrations for 1898. It showed that he was born on 12 December 1897 to Frederick H West and Christena McKay. His birth in the 1911 Census shows 13 December 1897.

I found Earl and Maud in the 1921 Canadian Census at Regina. I Googled his name and the first thing I

located was a picture of a gravestone in the Riverside Memorial Park in Regina with the same name. The gravestone indicated that he served in the military. However, the gravestone stated that this person was born circa 1900. The Earl Gordon West I was looking for should be born in 1897.

At first I didn't think I had the right person, because the details didn't quite match up. However, a further search found an obituary for this person in the *Regina Leader Post* at the *Google News Archive* which mentions that he was 64, not 62. He would have turned 65 by the end of the year.

The obituary said that he was survived by a wife, Mary, and a sister, Mrs. Jean Woods of Vancouver. A search of the same cemetery as Earl in Regina lists a woman named Mary West but she was born circa 1915. Maud was born between 1895 and 1900. She was slightly older than her husband and tended to stay the same age in records over several years.

I looked for additional details on his family in BC and located the death registration for his father in BC in 1953. The informant was his daughter, Jean Woods. Frederick Herbert West was buried at the Mountain View Cemetery in Vancouver. I knew I had the correct Earl Gordon West despite a wife listed by a different name but what happened to Maud? Did she die young? Return to the UK? I'm not sure.

If you have any info on this war bride, please contact me at wwiwarbrides@shaw.ca.

Regina Leader Post is online at *Google News Archive* at <https://news.google.com/newspapers?hl=en>. I have been using the *Leader-Post* as the newspaper to browse but it could be under *Morning Leader*, *Leader-Post* or *Regina Leader*. They don't group the newspapers for one place by location together. You can't do a search so you have to have a date to browse for an obituary.

CanadianHeadstones Announcement

<https://canadianheadstones.com/>

The *CanadianHeadstones Photo Project* is free to all researchers. The mission of the project is to capture digital images and the complete transcription of headstones of our ancestors. As decades pass, it is becoming harder – if not impossible – to read the inscriptions these stones originally contained. By archiving the images and transcriptions, these important records are saved. “The new site is a completely new approach to submitting, editing and searching. To assist users with learning the new processes, a group of new *Help Pages* has been created. Some of the new features:

- all of Canada & Armed Services in one database
- ability to submit several photos at one time
- re-sizing of photos will no longer be required
- ability to add several photos to one record, i.e., a family plot or four sides of a stone
- a special cemetery record page with details about each cemetery.

Online Resources

Virtual Museum of Métis History and Culture

www.metismuseum.ca

The collection includes oral history interviews, photographs and various archival documents.

Red River Métis Genealogies

<https://resistancemothers.wordpress.com>

Genealogies of Red River families.

PRDH, Research Programme in Historical Demography

<https://www.genealogie.umontreal.ca/en/le-prdh>

PRDH’s database, covering the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, thus contains the personal history of the Quebec ancestors of all French-Canadians.

Library and Archives Canada Service at the Vancouver Public Library

The VPL is very excited to announce the launch of LAC service at the Central Library starting November 8. Monday to Friday during LAC service hours, library patrons can speak to the national institution’s expert staff, receive assistance for research, request documents from Ottawa, and access key genealogy databases such as *Find My Past*.

Family History Events

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca

- **Orientations**, Saturdays, 10:00-10:50 am, Nov 4, Dec 2 Pre-registration recommended. Fee: free.
- **Fun Family History Fridays**, Fri Nov 3, Dec 1, 2017, 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm.
- **Family History on the Cheap** with Jamie Brown, Sat Oct 21, 10:30 am - 12:00 pm. Free.
- **Shocking Genealogy Secrets** with M. Diane Rogers and Paul

MacDonell, Oct 28, 2017, 10:30 am-12:30 pm.

- **9th Annual Family History Show & Tell**, Sat. Nov 18, 10:30 am–12:30 pm. Bring whatever you’ve made to honour your ancestors. This year continues the “home movie” theme. Visitors without stories are welcome to watch and listen. No charge.

Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

www.kdgs.ca

- **Harvest Your Family Tree Conference**, April 20 and 21, 2018 Details later at Kelowna and District Genealogical Society.

Tour of the History of Ocean View’s Mausoleum

www.straight.com/listings/events/982066

- Historian Maurice Guibord will first lead you in an exploration of the 1931 Abbey Mausoleum, October 22, 11am-2 PM, followed by free lunch. Free. RSVP: 604-435-6688 or: jason.probyn@dignitymemorial.com

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

www.qbfhs.ca

- **Unlocking The Past seminar**, April 20-21 2018, Parksville, The Beach Club Resort.

Maple Ridge Family History Group, Wednesday, Nov 4, 2017, 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library. Gina will be giving a presentation on some of the WWI cemeteries and memorials she visited in Belgium and northern France, with a focus on Commonwealth War Graves.