

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.

Email: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Why Two Baptismal Records?

by Jennifer McLintock

Several years ago my parents advised me they had several old family documents in the safety deposit box. I asked if I could see them and my parents obliged. I was a little taken aback when I saw these old documents rolled up and somewhat squashed handed to me but quickly thanked them. I took the documents that were too large to scan in my home scanner to Ashif at Sure Copy. He scanned them and I began to add them into my genealogy program. I was a very happy lady, old documents are such a treasure.

Once my Mum passed away I began going through thousands of pictures. I eventually went through the old documents and found some new documents my parents had not given me before. I again went off to Ashif had them scanned and began entering them into the genealogy program. It was then I saw that I had two individuals on my Dad's side who had duplicate baptismal records. I went to the safe, dragged out all the old documents, and then contemplated how best to preserve these items and were there really two people who had two sets? Surely there was a mistake.

To my surprise I found two of my Dad's relatives really did have two baptismal records. These documents are long, about 16" long and 6" wide and handwritten on preprinted heavy paper. I didn't have even one record for my Mum, no church record, no baptismal record. Mum's British citizenship came via

her Grandfather – but that's another story! I puzzled over this for some time. The records in question were for my Grandfather and Great Grandfather. I did know that prior to the Second World War my Dad's family were influential and wealthy. Some online records I had obtained for Dad's family showed them to be judges, magistrates, army officers, Doctors and such. A large part of my genealogical research is centred around India, Burma, and Pakistan. Records for these countries are not easy to find. I asked the group in the UK Families In British India but they didn't have any answers. I asked at our monthly Family History Group meeting – answers varied.

Eventually I had an idea to call one of my Mum's school friends, Angela, in the UK. Mum's friend told me that even the poorest of Anglo-Indian families in India (in those days it included Burma) had their children baptised. The small fee paid to the church included one handwritten baptismal record. The fact that my Mum didn't have a record she said wasn't particularly surprising since in those days it wasn't considered a particularly important document. The records remained at the church, in my Mum's case the church remains unknown. The Anglo-Indian community was a community unto themselves even in the vast expanse of India it seems that many of them were all interconnected. My Mum not having her document wouldn't raise alarm bells. It only became a problem once the Second World War began and people were evacuating war torn areas. My Dad's Mum was powerhouse of a woman and she single handedly obtained records for many family members which in those days was difficult. Without her assistance half the family would not have been able to obtain passports.

Angela said that the two baptismal records for Dad's family members was a status symbol, a sign of affluence. Who would have known!

World War I Commemorations

<http://genealogylacarte.ca>

www.nostoneleftalone.ca



Hatzik Cemetery Marker from Brenda L. Smith Collection

In her post of 07 November 2018, *Genealogy à la Carte* blogger Gail Dever flagged the No Stone Left Alone program in which students place poppies on veterans' graves. Begun in Edmonton in 2011, the goal is to mark every military service member's grave across Canada annually.

Gail noted in her post that across Canada about 9,000 students in 55 communities are participating this year, and in BC, about 120 Grade 6 and 7 students, accompanied by Canadian Armed Forces members from CFB Esquimalt, placed about 2,000 poppies on veterans' gravesites at God's Acre Veterans Cemetery in Esquimalt.



NO STONE LEFT ALONE
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION

Pope Project Update

The Kelowna and District Genealogical Society held their biennial conference on September 29th. Several members of our group attended and, as well, we had the opportunity to display an exhibit. We selected the community history project relating to the family of Edmund Pope, completed in 2016/17. Many people stopped to look at the boards and to chat.

We remarked on the number of people who had a connection to Maple Ridge, either having lived here themselves or having family members who had. Lots of reminiscing took place. Unexpectedly, a possible connection was made with the Pope family. Two women told us they had the name "Pope" in their family trees. One woman was actually born in Cornwall, England, birthplace of Edmund Pope and his wife Eleanor Laity. They were excited about the possibility of a connection. Email addresses were exchanged to share information in the hope of confirming this branch in the family tree.

ThoughtCo

by *Brenda L. Smith*

www.thoughtco.com

Thanks to a message from Tess O'hogain Strong, second vice president of Abbotsford Genealogical Society, a quick peek at Thoughtco.com with search string "family history research" delivered at least 50 topics. Under Humanities, I checked out articles from "10

Steps for Finding Your Family Tree Online" by Kimberly Powell, author of *The Everything Guide to Online Genealogy*, 3rd ed., and previous president of the Association of Professional Genealogists. Also, by Kimberly, "Fun Family History Activities for Family Reunions" offers interesting methods for engaging those less thrilled by your research passion.

This seems to be a commercial site, or at least driven by advertising, and the pop-ups were annoying at first. But I warily read a few and found links to: "Genealogy Austria Research Services" and "MyHeritage.com".

Kimberly's advice is practical and straightforward. I recommend that you see for yourself.

Local Voices: Neighbours Talking With Neighbours

Lucky for us, Maple Ridge has its own free monthly TED-like experience — Local Voices. This ongoing series celebrates the City of Maple Ridge, past and present, through the stories of our citizens, new residents and long-time residents alike.

Presentations combine talks, readings and performances with community dialogue.

To subscribe to the Local Voices E-Bulletin please visit <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/local-voices/>

Cloverdale Genealogy Collection News

Let us introduce Carmen Merrills as head of Cloverdale Library's Family History Department. Carmen has stepped into Carolyn

Franklin's position and we wish Carolyn the very best in her retirement. Carmen has worked at Cloverdale branch of Surrey Libraries for several years already, and is excited to embark on this new role. She looks forward to hearing the ideas and wishes you may have for future Family History programs and resources and promises to do her best to make them happen.

Online Resources

Free Access to Canadian Military Records

www.ancestry.ca

Non-Ancestry subscribers will receive free access to Canadian Military Records in their collection from Nov 8 to 11. Already an Ancestry.ca subscriber? You will receive free access to Fold3 and Newspapers.com.

NEHGS Announces FREE ACCESS to 1.4 Billion Names- Nov 6 through 13

AmericanAncestors.org/Free-Billion

American Ancestors and New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) are granting free access to more than 1.4 billion names within its data-rich online records. For a limited time only—from Nov 6 to Nov 13, 2018—anyone can access the many research databases within the website of NEHGS by registering as a guest.

Canada, WWII Service Files of War Dead, 1939-1947

<https://search.ancestry.ca/search/db.aspx?dbid=9145>

The Second World War service files for Canadian War Dead are online at Ancestry for free.

Ontario Deaths, 1869-1937 and Overseas Deaths, 1939-1947

<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1307826>

Name index of Ontario, Canada, death registrations now includes 1937. Registration entries for 1939–1947 are for overseas deaths only. Browse through 924,237 images.

1926 Prairie Census

www.bac-lac.gc.ca

The database of the Census of the Prairie Provinces, 1926 (Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta) will be available in a free searchable index on its website in March 2019, along with digitized images.

Cloverdale Library given Affiliate Library status with FamilySearch.org!

Cloverdale Library has been given Affiliate Library status with FamilySearch.org. This means that while using FamilySearch.org at Cloverdale Library you will be able to view digital images of original documents that are locked to home users.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Family History Centre

www.abbotsfordfamilyhistory.com

Abbotsford Family History Day, Saturday, May 4, 2019, 8:30am – 3:30pm. 30635 Blueridge Drive
Fee: Free.

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

Studio 2 The Reach

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

- **The Elusive Daniel Doyle: A Case Study** with Andrea Lister, Nov 15, 2018 1:30 pm.

- **Christmas Social**, Dec 13, 2018, drop-in between 2:00 & 4:00pm
- **AGM & How to Write your Family History** with Philip Sherwood, Jan 24, 2019 1:30pm

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca

Register a 604-598-7327 or by email: familyhistory@surrey.ca.

Limited parking until further notice, parking is unavailable at Cloverdale Library due to construction.

- **Orientations**, Saturdays, 10:00-10:50 am, Dec 1, 2018. Pre-registration recommended. Fee: free.
- **Fun Family History Fridays**, Fri, Dec 7, 2018, Jan 4, and Feb 1, 2019, 2:30–4:00 pm.
- **Family History Show and Tell**, Sat Nov 17, 2018, 10:30 am - 12:30 pm. Always fun, always interesting. You could do a presentation, or set up a display, or just come to listen and look. Guildford Library -- 15105 105 Ave, Surrey, free parking up to 3 hours. Fee: Free.

Guild of One Name Studies

<https://one-name.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Canada-Pacific-Seminar.pdf>

- 2018 Canada-Pacific Seminar, Saturday, Dec 8, 2018, Alan Emmott Centre, Burnaby, Non-members welcome. Fee: \$45, lunch included.

Maple Ridge Family History Group, Wednesday, December 5, 2018, 7pm in the Greenside Room at the Maple Ridge Library.

Christmas the Family History Way. Bring a Christmas artifact and share a story. A picture, an ornament, a letter?