

Family History Newsletter

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The Family History Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

Find us on the web:

www.mapleridgemuseum.org

Email us: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Editors: Annette Fulford, Andrea Lister

Contributors: Gina Leigh

Production: Val Patenaude, Allison White

Distribution: Brenda Smith

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the Maple Ridge Historical Society.

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Readers are welcome to reprint articles from this publication provided that formal permission is obtained from the Editor.

Subscriptions are a benefit of membership in the Maple Ridge Historical Society. Please send membership applications, with \$20 to the Maple Ridge Historical Society.

Family History Group Meetings

The May meeting will be May 7, 2014.

Online City Directories

by Gina Leigh

Over the past year I have been able to make good use of the British Columbia city directories which are available online through the Vancouver Public Library at www.vpl.ca/bccd/index.php

Directories are available for the years 1860 to 1935. The majority of the detailed listings are for the greater Vancouver area, however there are pleasant surprises finding listings for other municipalities as well.

The crisscross feature of the Vancouver directories proved valuable when I was seeking several families. People are listed alphabetically by surname in one section and another section lists street names and numbers and the names of the residents. My grandparents lived at 218 Union Street for a few years. I "lost" them in the 1936 and 1937 *BC & Yukon Directories* because their non-English name was so badly corrupted by the enumerator. On checking the street name and address section, and through a little mental contortion of sounding out the surname listed, I was confident I had found them still at the same address.

The alphabetical section also included my grandfather's occupation and the names of employers. Looking up the employers' names in the

directories, I was able to see what type of business they conducted.

A family of cousins with a different surname was proving to be elusive in the alphabetical section. By looking at the street address section for the approximate years I thought they had lived on Fleming Street, I located the family. Working my way backwards through the years I discovered they had lived at one address for close to 20 years, however their surname had been spelled incorrectly.

I recently helped a friend seeking information about his family who had lived in Langley Prairie. The directories revealed that a grandfather had operated a hotel, that he was the station agent for the Interurban, and the occupations of his children. My friend had wondered where his widowed grandfather had met his second wife who was from England. The directories revealed that in the few years before their marriage she was living close-by with her sister and brother-in-law.

A drawback of searching for non-English names is that they can be misspelled, often residents are listed as "foreigners" or by their ethnic origin rather than by name, or in the case of boarding houses not all residents are listed. The directories are still a valuable resource for locating families. Check them out.

Online Resources

BC Provincial Police General Orders

<http://nbca.library.unbc.ca/home/digital-collections-old/bcpp-general-orders/>

The BC Provincial Police General Orders Digitization Project has made documents accessible that contain operational updates for employees of the BC Provincial Police between 1923 and 1949.

Canada, St. Lawrence Steamboat Company Passenger Lists, 1819-1838

www.ancestry.ca

Ancestry.ca launched almost 200,000 passenger records dating from 1819 to 1836, documenting passengers travelling between Quebec City and Montreal on the ships of the St. Lawrence Steamboat Company.

Middlesex Conscription Appeals

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

These records are the case files of over 8,000 men who were appealing against their conscription into the army during the First World War.

WWI Unit War Diaries

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

As part of the centenary programme – First World War 100, thousands of digitised First World War unit war diaries from France and Flanders are now available online.

The Jewish Chronicle Newspaper Archive

<http://www.myheritage.com/>

MyHeritage has added *The Jewish Chronicle* newspaper archive to its digital collection of historical records. The archive contains over 200,000 pages and millions of names, and dates back to 1841.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

- **Donald and Kiefer Sutherland** with Graham McDonell, Thursday, April 17, 2014, 1:00 pm.
- **Seafaring Ancestors** with Andrea Lister, Thursday, May 15, 2014, 6:30 pm.
- **WWI War Brides** with Annette Fulford, Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

BCHF Annual Conference

Cloverdale: Surrey's Historic Centre, June 6–7, 2014

<http://bchistory.ca/conferences/2014/index.html>

BCGS May 2014 Seminar

- With Audrey Collins from England and Geoff and Marg Doherty from Australia. Saturday, May 31, 10:30 am to 4:00 pm. Fee: \$65 – non-members.
www.bcgsc.ca/?page_id=2511

Cloverdale Library

5642 - 176A Street, Surrey, BC V3S 4G9, call 604-598-7327, or email familyhistory@surrey.ca

- **Cemeteries** with Lorraine Irving, Saturday April 12, 10:30 am – noon. Fee: \$10.

Kelowna And District Genealogical Society

- **Harvest Your Family Tree 2014**, Genealogical Conference

& Marketplace, Friday, September 26 – Sunday September 28, 2014, Western Canada's Largest conference boasts a full day of seminars with renowned international speakers. Fee: \$75 for Saturday Sessions. Friday workshops also available. Must pre-register: www.harvestyourtree.blogspot.ca

Surrey Museum

- **Historical Maps of BC**, with Derek Hayes, Saturday, May 10, 2014, 11:00am – 12:00pm. Fee: \$ 10 (16yrs+). Must pre-register by calling 604-502-6459.

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

- **Unlocking the Past**, Saturday May 24, 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. Fee: \$90 – non-members.
<http://qbfhs.ca>

Vancouver Public Library

Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street.

- **Trace Your Ancestors with Ancestry Library Edition**, Sundays, May 4 and 18, 2014, 2:00–4:00 pm. Registration required. Fee: Free.
- **First Families First Stories**, with ExporASIAN, Wednesday, May 7 or 14, 2014, 6:30 – 8:00 pm. Fee: Free.
- **Trace Your Ancestors with FamilySearch & Archives Canada**, Sundays, May 11 and 25, 2014, 2:00–4:00 pm. Registration required. Fee: Free.
- **Genealogy and Family History get Social**, with Celia Lewis and M. Diane Rogers, Monday, June 2, 2014, 2:00–3:30 pm. Fee: Free.