

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.

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British Columbia City Directories: A Gold Mine of Information Part One

by Gina Leigh

What do we know of the cities and towns earlier generations lived in? If we are researching in BC and the Yukon we have the illuminating resource known as the British Columbia city directories.

These directories are available online at Vancouver Public Library 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.

The directories contain detailed historical information about BC (and eventually Yukon) communities — street and name listings of individuals and businesses, government, population, newspapers, schools, libraries, and so much more. They document the growth of BC and the Yukon, and also contain advertisements and illustrations which provide insight into the times.

The 1860 *San Francisco Department Directory* states in the Introduction: "California is now, and ever will be, the only reliable mart from which these colonies can be supplied with the necessaries and commodities." The indexes to both the Victoria and

San Francisco departments list merchants and businesses in San Francisco.

By 1863 the *BC Guide and Directory* focused primarily on Victoria with an alphabetical list of individuals, addresses and occupations. It included a description of New Westminster (the capital of BC) and the Fraser River — businesses and government offices. The Colony of BC section lists Hudson's Bay Company Stations and "the Gentlemen in Charge"; salaries of various government officials including His Excellency James Douglas, CB, Governor and Commander-in-Chief; revenue, customs duties, laws, meteorological records; and under BC Towns: the names and occupations of residents in places such as Douglas, Richfield and Antler.

In 1877-1878 we have the *Guide to the Province of BC* which includes information on climate, beasts, birds and fish, land grants requirements, the Chinook Dictionary (a "Dictionary of the Chinook Jargon, Indian Trade Language of the North Pacific Coast"). We see the expansion of settlements through the growing list of residents and businesses.

The "City of Vancouver — Terminus of the CPR" is mentioned in the 1887 directory. Along with a geographical description there are market reports listing the price of food items, shipments from Hastings Sawmill, and fraternal organizations. The Table of Salmon Canneries shows where salmon was caught and then where, nationally and internationally, the almost 171,000 cases were shipped.

Read the May edition for Part Two.

Online Resources

Merchant Navy Records

www.ancestry.uk

- UK, Apprentices Indentured in Merchant Navy, 1824-1910
www.findmypast.co.uk
- Britain, Merchant Seamen, 1835-1857
- Britain, Merchant Seamen, 1918-1941
- British Merchant Navy, First World War Medal Cards 1914-1925
- England & Wales Merchant Navy Crew Lists 1861-1913
- Lloyd's Register Of Merchant Ships Index 1843

University of Saskatchewan Digital Collections

cdm16134.contentdm.oclc.org/cdm/

The University of Saskatchewan Library hosts a number of online digitized collections.

German Records

www.archion.de

Germany's Protestant church books. The registers that have been digitized are not searchable by name; their individual pages are browsable.

Daily Pennsylvanian

dparchives.library.upenn.edu/

The *Daily Pennsylvanian Digital Archives*, a collection of more than 40 years' worth of digitized, searchable issues of the newspaper.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Family History Day

www.abbotsfordfamilyhistory.com

- **A day of speakers.** 30535 Blueridge Drive, Abbotsford, BC, Saturday, May 14, 2016, 8:00am to 3:30pm. Fee: Free.

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

www.abbyqs.ca

- **How to Care for your Artefacts**, with Kris Foulds, April 21, 2016: 6:30 pm, The Reach, Studio 2.

BC Genealogical Society

www.bcqs.ca

- **Digging Deeper in Ireland and Scotland**, with Chris Paton, Saturday, April 30, 2016; 10:00am – 4:30pm. Fee: \$40.00 for BCGS & Affiliate members / \$50.00 for non-members.

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca

- **Collection Orientations**, Saturday, May 7; 10:00-10:50am. Fee: Free. Pre-registration recommended.
- **Navigating Ancestry and HeritageQuest**, with Paul MacDonell, Saturday, April 16, 2016, 10:30 am – 12:00 pm Fee: Free.

Kelowna and District Genealogical Society

www.kdqs.ca

- **Harvest Your Family Tree**, September 24–26, 2016. 28 concurrent workshops, genealogical marketplace, evening reception, and more. Fee: Saturday conference, \$80 for KDGS members/\$95 for non-members. Additional costs for Friday workshops, meet the speakers reception, bagged lunch, and printed syllabus.

Pitt Meadows Library

www.fvrl.bc.ca

- **First Steps on the Ancestry Trail**, with Brenda L. Smith, Tuesday, April 19, 2016, 7:00pm to 8:30 pm. Fee: Free.

Qualicum Beach Family History Society

www.qbfhs.ca

- **Unlocking The Past International Genealogy Conference**, with Colleen Fitzpatrick and Chris Paton, Parksville, BC, Saturday, April 22–23, 2016, 7:45am – 4:00pm Fee: \$85.

Stillaguamish Valley Genealogical Society

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

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

Surrey Family History Centre Surrey Stake Centre

www.findingyourroots.ca

- **Problem Solving: It's Not Always the Records** with Gayel Knott, Wednesday, April 20, 2016 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm, Relief Society Room A.

Vancouver Public Library

www.vpl.ca/programs/

- **Genealogy: Trace Your Ancestors with Ancestry Library Edition**, Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Alma VanDusen & Peter Kaye Rooms Computer Training Lab
- **Genealogy: Trace Your Ancestors with FamilySearch and Library and Archives Canada**, Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 2:00pm – 4:00pm, Computer Training Lab
- **Introduction to Genealogy Research**, Thursday, June 23, 2016, 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm, Champlain Heights Branch

Maple Ridge Family History Group, Wednesday, May 4, 2016, 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.