

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**

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

March Family History Group

The topic for the March 3, 2010 meeting is immigration.

Bring your records, your tips, and your questions.

Security, Privacy and Integrity

By Brenda L. Smith

The big three concerns for family historians who post their research results on the Web: security, privacy and integrity. Security of our own information and that of our families. Privacy when sharing information electronically. Integrity as practiced in verifying and reporting our family histories.

The starting point is our nearest and dearest—the people we have known all our lives. Usually with the best intentions, we follow the recommendation to begin by gathering the details about their immediate lives, and making personal contact with living relatives. Innocently, we exchange what we think we know with others who have varied viewpoints about our ancestors.

In the process, we collect and share potentially sensitive data. We post photos and trees to social networking sites and mailing lists. We plug our family names into search engines hoping to find more relatives, living and dead.

In recent years, online dealers have developed options to stand-alone family history software. We are encouraged to record our research on web sites where companies promise us absolute

security. The examples I will use here are Ancestry.com samples, but this commercial enterprise is not unique in the family history online world.

The latest communication I have received from Ancestry.com reads “PRIVACY STATEMENT Ancestry.com does not sell, rent or otherwise distribute the personal information you provide us to third party advertisers.” However, Ancestry.com has appropriated user information in other ways. When you ask Ancestry.com to search for your ancestor, the results might contain sources such as FreeBMD. This is a volunteer project hosted by RootsWeb via Ancestry servers. So, essentially, volunteer work has been appropriated by Ancestry.com without the permission of contributors.

Before you upload documents and photos to an online management program, such as Ancestry, read the fine print. Does the site exclude your material from such appropriations? Have you considered the consequences of letting your subscription expire before you remove all your data from such a site? Does the provider retain the right to use your information after your subscription expires?

Mindfulness, respect, and good will are the best tools we can

develop to ensure that your use of electronic research possibilities is safe and honest. Read the fine print. Make sure you understand the implications of registration before you click the "I Agree" button. Do not post information about living people without their permission. And be sure you understand how that information might be used.

Most of all, be skeptical. Make sure that the information you post is accurate and supported by reliable sources. And require that standard of the sites you use.

New Online Resources

Peel's Prairie Postcards

<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/images/>

This database includes 15,000 images dating back to the 19th century. You can search keyword, author, title, subject, publication year or by language.

Newspapers at Peel's Prairie Provinces

<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/newspapers/>

New papers: Saturday News 1907-1912, The Gateway 1910-2006, Red Deer News 1906-1926 and the Wetaskiwin Times (Alberta) 1928-1933

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

Meetings at Clearbrook Library
32320 George Ferguson Way
Abbotsford, BC

Doors open 6:00 pm. Meeting starts at 6:30 pm

- Mar. 16: Family Stories and the Book Writing Process Ernie Harder, Author
- April 20: Chilliwack Military Museum Jim Harris
- May 18: Chilliwack British Library Hails
- June 15: Sharing Genealogy Research AGS Members

Cloverdale Library

5642-176A Street, Surrey offers free orientations the 1st Saturday of every month 9:30 – 10:30am.

- **Finding Your Female Ancestors: Paper Trails and DNA** with Diane Rogers and Laurie J. Cooke. Saturday, April 17, 2010, 10:30am – 12:00pm.
- **Ukrainian Roots** with Vera Shpolyansky. Saturday, April 10, 2010, 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm at the Surrey Museum, 17710 - 56A Avenue, Surrey, BC. Fee: \$10.00
- **Fast and Easy Digital Collages Using Picasa** with Laurie J. Cooke. Saturday, May 8, 2010, 10:30 – 11:30am. Fee: \$10.00.

Pre-registration is required – please check the Genealogy section of the Surrey Public Library website www.spl.surrey.bc.ca or call us at 604-598-7328.

The Jewish Museum and Archives of British Columbia

- Stephen P. Morse: One-Step Webpages: A Potpourri of Genealogical Tools and Webpages: A Hodgepodge of

Lesser-Known Gems, Sunday, March 28, 2010, 12:00pm - 4:00pm. Fee: \$7.50/ JHSBC, JGIBC, or BCGS member, \$10.00/ non-members

Seating is limited, reservations are recommended. To reserve a seat, contact Cissie Eppel at (604) 321-9870

For more details check:

http://www.jewishmuseum.ca/info/current_events/.

Vancouver Public Library

- **Women's History Fair**, Saturday, April 10, 2010, 1:00 pm-4:00 pm in the Promenade, Central Library. Fee: Free.
- **Canadian Church Records**, Tuesday, April 13, 2010, 10:30 am – 12:30 pm in the Alma VanDusen Room, Lower Level, Central Library. Fee: Free. Registration required.

If you would like to attend please call 603-331-3716 or register in person with the information staff.

Heritage Week: 15 - 21 February 2010

The Heritage of Sport & Recreation

Just in time for the Winter Olympics – Heritage Week 2010!

The theme is "Sport and Recreation", opened up all kinds of possibilities: teams, champions and heroes, historic sporting events, stadiums and arenas, parks and sports fields.

<http://www.heritagebc.ca/home/>