



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.

Family History Group Meetings

The February meeting will be March 7, 2012.

Upper Canada Land Petitions Database

By Andrea Lister

Library and Archives Canada recently announced a major update to its online database *Upper Canada Land Petitions (1763-1865)*.

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/index-e.html.

Through this updated online database, researchers can access more than 82,000 references to petitions for grants or leases of land created by individuals who lived in present-day Ontario between 1763 and 1865.

As I have ancestors who are reported to be Loyalists I thought I would have a look. The first step was to search the index:

www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/upper-canada-land/index-e.html

I found Mary Usher in the index:

- Name: Usher/Street, Mary
- Place: Willoughby
- Year: 1796
- Volume: 448A
- Bundle: S 2
- Petition: 121
- Microfilm: C-2806
- Reference: RG 1 L3

Library and Archives Canada has digitized images of the Upper Canada land petitions from 326 microfilm reels, representing 357,831 new images to its website. Through the "microform

digitization" research tool, users can browse the microfilm reels page by page.

Thus, I went to microfilm C-2806 and began to browse. Using the volume and bundle numbers I was able to narrow the search and not have to page through 1313 images. Once I found the right bundle I was able to go page by page until I found petition #121 on page 899.

The Memorial of Mary Street Humbly Sheweth

That She is Daughter to Samuel Street Esq. of Queenston whose early attachment to the British Cause, during the late Dysentions in American took him from his Family and left your Petitioner an infant, in the then Province of New York to the Dangers and Distresses naturally occurring from the Convulsive State of the Country. That her Father after the Peace took the earliest opportunity of bringing her into the then Province of Quebec.

I obtained more information from this document than I had hoped; I now know that Mary was born in the United States and did not come to Canada with her father.

The original petition was made in 1796 and also signed by John Usher, her husband, in 1817 verifying her current residence.

There is also a note that states that Mary Usher was awarded a grant of land of 600 acres on July 9, 1796.

Online Resources

Updated: BC Vital Events Index

Marriages to 1936

Deaths to 1991

<http://search.bcarchives.gov.bc.ca/sn-3F259AD/gbsearch/Births,Marriages,Deaths>

Hearth Tax Online

Hearth Tax Online is a web site dedicated to providing data and analysis of the records of the hearth tax which was introduced in England and Wales by the government of Charles II in 1662.

<http://www.hearthtax.org.uk/>

Mobile Indexing App

FamilySearch has launched a mobile device for indexing. The device will expand the capability of volunteers to help make the world's historic records searchable online. The mobile device app works on Apple iPads, iPhones, and Droid smartphones. To download the free app, search for the FamilySearch Indexing app in the Apple app store or Droid Market store online.

Family History Show and Share

Join the Maple Ridge Family History Group at Maple Ridge Library for our first Show and Share.

April 21, 2012 11:00am–3:00 pm

Join us in the computer lab 11:00 am–12:00 pm: and 12:00 pm–1:00 pm.

Join us in the Fraser Room for presentations and displays 1:00 pm–3:00 pm.

Bring your scrapbooks and displays and share your stories.

Register by email avidgenie@hotmail.com or by phoning Maple Ridge Museum & Archives at 604.463.5311.

Family History Events

Clearbrook Library

- **Ancestry.com - Search For Your Roots** with Chris Longley, Tuesday, Mar 20, 2:00pm-4:00pm. Registration required. Fee: free.

Ladner Pioneer Library

- **Key Websites for Canadian Immigration and Census Records**, with M. Diane Rogers Thursday, March 22, 2:00pm–3:30pm. Drop in.

Langley Library

- **Find Your Family in the Library** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, May 12, 2:00pm–3:00pm. Registration required. Fee: free.

New Westminster

- **Intro to Genealogy: Who Are You?** With M. Diane Rogers, Saturday, February 25, 2012 from 9am–3:30pm. New Westminster Secondary School, (Please bring your lunch.) To register, www.ce40.ca or call 604 517 6345. Fee: \$47

Tsawwassen Library

- **Key Websites for Canadian Immigration and Census Records**, with M. Diane

Rogers, Thursday, March 29, 2:00pm–3:30pm. Drop in.

Surrey Libraries

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

- **Finding Your Scottish Roots** with Lorraine Irving, Saturday, March 31, 10:30–Noon. Fee: \$10.00.
- **Killing Them Softly: End of Life Documents are the Place to Start** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, April 14, 11:00am–12:30pm. Fee: \$10:00.
- **Social Networking 101 for Family History** with M. Diane Rogers, Saturday, May 12, 10:30–Noon. Fee: \$10:00.

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

Vancouver Public Library

- **Ancestry Library Edition: Gateway to Your Family History**, Tuesday February 21, 2:30 pm–4:00 pm. Fee: free, registration required.
- **Wired for Learning FamilySearch.org: Your History at Your Fingertips**, Sunday March 4, 3:00 pm–4:30 pm. Fee: free, registration required.
- **Canadian Genealogy 101**, Sunday May 6, 12:30 pm–2:00 pm. Central Library. Registration required. Fee: Free.

For more information please contact Fine Arts and History at 604-331-3716.