

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 February 2, 2011.

Books and Tricks

By Andrea Lister

For Christmas I received the much anticipated *The diary of Jane Ellice* edited by Patricia Godsell, published in 1975. On Nov. 4, 1838 Jane talks about being taken captive by rebel insurgents at the Beauharnois Seigneurie in Lower Canada (Quebec). Ellice and her household were kept prisoners until Nov. 10, when they were freed by troops. In this series of entries Jane mentions a Mrs. Usher with 2 children.

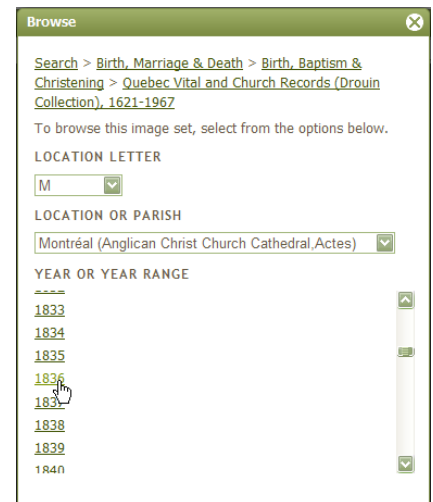
Indeed a prisoner's life is not an agreeable one. Besides our prison is so crowded - 62 people- some of them insufferably dirty, and squalling children in abundance, all spoilt and some of them sick, added to which we have Killdeer, Bess and Major in our little Cell. The Cure is as kind as possible. What spoilt children there are in the world. Mrs. Usher, with all her scolding, has a good a specimen of a spoilt child in her "Mary Jane my child" as one could wish to see. (page 142)

Mrs. Usher is my 3rd Great-grandmother Sarah Usher (nee Platt) and the spoiled Mary Jane my 2nd great-grandmother. I am assuming that the infant is George Beauchamp Ussher born 06 Jan 1838. Based on this entry it dawned on me that I should look in Quebec for Mary Jane's birth record rather than Ontario. I logged onto Ancestry.ca and went to the *Quebec Vital and*

Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1967.

A simple search produced no results but I knew that her parents had been married at Montréal (Anglican Christ Church Cathedral, Actes) and based on later census records that Mary Jane was born in 1836.

The Drouin collection can be browsed by location and date; luckily for us, the priests and rectors indexed their own records and those have been digitized as well. So, I selected the parish and date and browsed to the index.



There she was under U.



I found page 34 and finally have the baptismal record for Mary Jane Ussher – indexed on Ancestry under “Ufsher” due to

the handwriting of Rector John Bethune.

I have used this technique to find other records for my family. If you have found one record for your family browse the original index for other years and see what you can find.

Online Resources

New Brunswick Archives

<http://archives.gnb.ca/APPS/GovRecs/VISSE/?culture=en-CA> have been adding digital images of their birth and marriage registrations, which you can download from their website free of charge.

For original copies of the death registrations go to Family Search Labs at

<https://www.familysearch.org/s/collection/show#uri=http://search-api:8080/searchapi/search/collection/1840147&hash=Mrd8SMocDIIen2O83tu%252B82PRagg%253D>.

They have images that are free.

Google News

http://news.google.com/archivesearch/advanced_search

Has a number of Canadian newspapers indexed. Be sure to put the name of the newspaper in the source to narrow down the results for your searches. You can browse the list the newspapers available at <http://news.google.com/newspapers> :

- The Vancouver Sun, May 1, 1920 - Feb 28, 1987

- The Vancouver Sunday Sun, Jul 1, 1923 - Aug 31, 1923
- The Calgary Daily Herald, Sep 8, 1888 - Nov 5, 1948
- The Calgary Herald, May 1, 1929 - Jan 10, 1987
- The Calgary Weekly Herald, Jan 11, 1888 - Aug 17, 1894
- Edmonton Journal, Jan 1, 1913 - Dec 20, 1986
- The Leader (Regina), Oct 7, 1890 - Nov 26, 1908
- Leader-News, May 16, 2001 - Apr 15, 2009
- The Leader-Post, May 1, 1930 - Jan 31, 1987
- Ottawa Citizen, Jul 30, 1820 - Nov 2, 1990
- The Ottawa Daily Citizen, Nov 10, 1879 - Dec 13, 1980
- The Quebec Gazette, Jan 12, 1775 - Nov 17, 1943
- Quebec Chronicle-Telegraph, Mar 29, 1935 - Dec 31, 1970.

History Club

Make history come alive! Join the local Community Heritage Commission and learn all about Canada's past. Create your own history project and have a chance to compete against other kids in the Fraser Valley Regional History Fair. For grades 4-10. Participants must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Volunteers are needed to work with young historians.

Wednesdays, February 2, 16, March 2, 16, April 6. This program ends April 20 with a history fair to show off projects. 3:00 pm - 5:00pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

For information call 604-467-7417

Family History Events

Maple Ridge Museum & Archives

- **Start Searching Your Family History: A Beginners' Workshop in 5 Lessons** with Brenda L. Smith, Sundays: February 6, 20, March 6, 20, April 3, 2011, 12:30pm - 3:30pm at the Maple Ridge Library. Fee \$100 for series.

To register or for more information, call 604-463-5311 or mrmuseum@gmail.com.

Surrey Libraries

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

- **Heritage Quest Database Online: Tutorial** with Laurie J. Cooke, Saturday, April 30, 2011, 10:30am - 11:30am. Free.
- **Cemeteries: the Archival Collection** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, February 26, 2011, 10:30am - 12:30pm. 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

- **Amelia Genealogy Workshop**, with Donna E. Fraser and Donald W. Davis, Tuesday, February 22, 2011, 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm in the Alma VanDusen Room, Lower Level, Central Library. Fee: Free.