

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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Submissions to this publication are welcome. Copy deadline is the 7th of each month. The publisher will take all reasonable care but will not be responsible for the loss of any manuscript or other material.

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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 July meeting will be July 3, 2013.

Tracing Family Homes

by Brenda Smith

Seeing the nests in our family trees enhances the pictures we hold in our minds of those who went before us. I have approached finding those houses by carefully examining family stories and documents.

My great grandmother Louisa was born at Ranslett House, Eaton Constantine, Shropshire in 1872. I used one of my internet search moments to Google "Ranslett House" and found applications to County Council for building improvements dated 2004. Yes, the house still stands, apparently owned by an organization providing services to the blind.

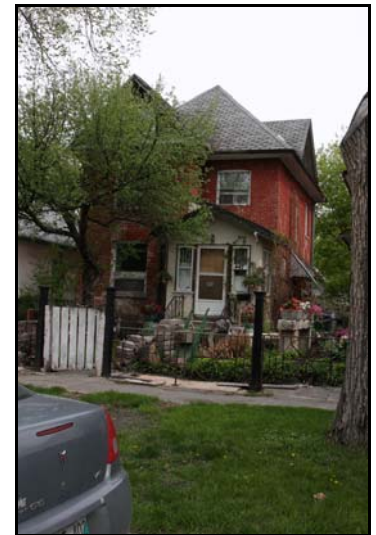
My German from Russia family lived in Winnipeg from about 1910 to 1915. The family story had always included the sadness of infant death and the frustration of city living. Indeed, a photo of Little Willy always hung on the homestead wall.

Grandparents Henry and Margaret Kehler moved to Canada after the birth of their first child Heinrich, born March 1909 in Lincoln, Nebraska. A bricklayer, Henry briefly suspended his dream of homesteading to work on sewer construction.

Using the Manitoba Vital Statistics index of historical

records, I documented the births of Frieda in 1911 and Wilhelm in December 1913, and the deaths of Heinrich and Wilhelm in 1914.

My friend Erica recently attended a geology conference in Winnipeg. With an intrigued taxi driver, she willingly made a field trip of finding the addresses from the documents, and Elmwood Cemetery. Located in the city's northeast sector, long a home for immigrants and workers, all three houses still stand. Erica used Google Maps to plan her trip from house to house and around the cemetery.



Winnipeg 447 College Ave 13. Photographer: Erica Williams

Further research:

- Manitoba Vital Statistics — Genealogy Searches for Unrestricted Records <http://vitalstats.gov.mb.ca> includes births from 100 years, marriages from 80 years and deaths from 70 years.

- Property Assessment Details:
<http://www.winnipegassessment.com/AsmtPub/english/propertydetails/RealtySearch.htm>

Online Resources

Welsh Newspapers Online
<http://welshnewspapers.llgc.org.uk/en/home>

Over 250,000 scanned pages held at the National Library of Wales. The collection includes 24 different titles published between 1860–1910.

Legacies of British Slave-ownership

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/lbs/>

An online database of British Slave-ownership containing information about every slave-owner in the British Caribbean, Mauritius or the Cape at the moment of abolition in 1833. Entries include information about the activities, affiliations and legacies of these men and women, with a particular emphasis on the "absentee" owners based in Britain.

The 1895 Valuation Rolls

<http://www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk/>

The Valuation Rolls (VRs) in Scotland for 1895 have just been added to the ScotlandsPeople website.

The new records, comprising 2,095,707 indexed names and 75,565 digital images, cover every kind of building, structure or dwelling that was assessed in 1895 as having a rateable value. The Rolls contain the names of

owners, tenants and occupiers of each property - and in many cases, occupations are also included.

Maple Ridge Open House

The Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission (CHC) is holding a public open house on Thursday, June 13, 2013 to present the highlights of the first draft of the Maple Ridge Heritage Plan. The CHC will be seeking public input on this plan.

Maple Ridge Library Family History Display

There is a display in the Maple Ridge Library put together by Brenda Smith and Annette Fulford. It is there for the month of June. Head on down and take a look.

AGS Moving

By now you would have heard our exciting news: the Abbotsford Genealogical Society is "moving on up" to brand-new state-of-the-art space at The Reach. The AGS Resource Centre, which is currently located in the Clearbrook Library, will close its doors forever Saturday June 29, 2013. Starting July 2 the collection will be prepared for its new home at The Reach across from the Clearbrook Library on the Civic Centre.

Please note that the AGS collection and/or its computer equipment will not be accessible to either the public or members during July and August.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

- **The Story of Two Prairie Women** with Sharon Syrette. Tues., June 18, 2013, 6:30pm.
- **Orientation to the Reach** with Kris Foulds. Thursday, Sept 19, 2013, 6:30 pm.
- **How to keep your family history from being a snore** with Andrea Lister. Thursday, Oct 3, 2013, 6:30pm.
- **A La Carte Maps** with Brenda Smith, Thursday, Oct. 17, 2013 1:00pm.

BCGS

- **Free Library Week** Monday, July 15 to Saturday, July 20, 2013. Volunteers are on hand to assist with finding books, CDs, film, unique databases, etc. in the library and there are featured sessions with research specialists every day.
- BCGS Walter Draycott Library **Open House**, Sunday, July 14, 2013 from 2 to 4 pm. Refreshments.
www.bcgsc.ca/

Vancouver Public Library

Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street.

- **How to Research your Vancouver Home Using Online Resources**, Wednesday, June 19, 2013, 2:30 pm. Fee: Free.

Surrey Tri-Stake

Mark your calendar, Saturday, October 19, 2013. 8:30am – 4:00pm.

www.findingyourroots.ca