

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.

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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 2, 2014.

The August meeting will be August 6, 2014

Capturing a Moment in Time: Souvenir Postcard from WWI

by Annette Fulford



Recently I was given a souvenir postcard by my friend Brenda on her return from Salmon Arm. On the front of the postcard it has hand-stitched embroidery with the words Souvenir de France and the dates 1914, 1915, 1916, and 1917 on it. On the back is a message from Pte A. Wildgoose, 234719, of the 52nd Batt.

Canadians from France to his mother dated November 13, 1917. It reads:

*Dear Mother, Just a few lines to let you know I am jake. Things are not too bad and we will not be long before we are in the line now. I am hoping to be able to do my bit & be back before long. I am hoping to hear better new of Edith before long now as I have had no mail for over a week now. We are living in billets now of whilst not so good as home life they look mighty good to us right now. Well keep up peckers over there & hope for the best. Give my Love to all at Home & accept the same Yourself. I Remain You Loving Son Arthur X
X X X X X X X X X*

This made me curious. Who was A. Wildgoose and what became of him? My first search was to check out the regimental number listed at the top of the postcard in the database Service Files of the First World War, 1914-1918 online at Library and Archives Canada. I found out that his name was Arthur, he was 5 ft 9 ¾ tall, with a dark complexion, brown hair and eyes. He enlisted at Winnipeg, Manitoba on April 12, 1916 and lists his wife as his next of kin. The record shows that he was a carpenter who was born in Matlock, Derbyshire, England in 1892.

At Familysearch.org I was able to locate an indexed birth record from the Primitave Methodist Church of Matlock, Derbyshire. It confirms the date of birth from the Attestation paper. The parents are listed at James Anthony and Cassandra Wildgoose.

Next I find Arthur, his parents, and siblings in the passenger lists travelling to Canada in August 1910 on the Empress of Britain. They were headed to Winnipeg, Manitoba. A quick search of the Manitoba Vitals Index revealed that Arthur married Edith McCormack in Winnipeg in September 1915. Edith was living with Arthur's family in the 1916 Prairie Census, while Arthur was training nearby at Camp Sewell.

Arthur obviously made it overseas during the war but did he return home afterwards? Later I find Arthur and Edith in the 1921 Canadian Census living in Winnipeg with their three children George, age 4, Ruby, age 3 and a newborn named Edgar who was 7 months old. Arthur returned to work as a carpenter after the war. This is all the information I've located on the family so far. How did the postcard end up in BC? Stay tuned as I search for more information on this family.

LAC Turns Ten!

www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/news/Pages/2014/lac-turns-ten-today.aspx

On May 21, 2004, the Library and Archives Canada Act came into force. To mark this special event, Library and Archives Canada (LAC) is releasing its fourth video in a series showing what it means to acquire and preserve Canada's documentary heritage and make it available to the public.

Online Resources

Ancestry

www.ancestry.co.uk

- Surrey, England, Land Tax Records, 1780-1832
- UK, WWII Medals Issued to Merchant Seamen, 1939-1945

The Down Survey of Ireland

<http://downsurvey.tcd.ie/>

Taken in the years 1656-1658, the Down Survey of Ireland is the first ever detailed land survey on a national scale anywhere in the

world. The armies of the English Commonwealth, commanded by Oliver Cromwell emerged victorious. The survey sought to measure all the land to be forfeited by the Catholic Irish for redistribution to Merchant Adventurers and English soldiers.

ScotlandsPeople

www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

31,000 Soldiers' Wills on the ScotlandsPeople website.

Australian Convict Database

<http://www.records.nsw.gov.au/slate-archives/indexes-online/indexes-to-convict-records/indexes-to-convict-records>

A project to digitise and index Australia's earliest convict records. Convict Indents list the convicts transported to New South Wales. Search over 12,000 names listed in these records and view digital indents online. This project marks the 225th anniversary in 2013 of the arrival of the First Fleet at Sydney Cove on 26 January 1788.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

- **WWI War Brides** with Annette Fulford, Thursday, June 19, 2014 at 6:30 pm.

Cloverdale Library

5642 - 176A Street, Surrey, BC V3S 4G9, call 604-598-7327, or email familyhistory@surrey.ca

- **Family History Collection Orientations:** Saturdays,

10:00–10:50 am: Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6. No charge.

- **Introduction to Family History**, Sept. 13, 10:30am. No charge.
- **Using Ancestry and HeritageQuest**, Sept. 27, 10:30am. No charge.
- **Start Searching Your Family History: A Beginners Workshop in Five Lessons** with Brenda L. Smith, Mondays 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Sept. 22, Oct. 6 & 20, Nov. 3 & 17, 2014. Fee: \$100.
- **Brick Walls, Part 2** in partnership with the BCGS, Nov. 1. The return of our very popular program! Full afternoon of speakers, food, one-on-one specialty meetings. Price: TBA.
- **6th Annual Family History Show & Tell!** Nov. 22 10:30am. Will feature a "home movie" theme this year. No charge.

Kelowna and District Genealogical Society

- **Harvest Your Family Tree 2014**, Genealogical Conference & Marketplace, Friday, September 26 – Sunday September 28, 2014, Western Canada's Largest conference boasts a full day of seminars with renowned international speakers. Fee: \$75 for Saturday Sessions. Friday workshops also available. Pre-register: www.harvestyourtree.blogspot.ca

Nanaimo Family History

- **A Day with Cyndi** with Cyndi Ingle, owner / creator of Cyndi's List, Saturday October 11, 2014, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm. www.members.shaw.ca/nfhs/DaYWithCyndi.html