

## Family History Newsletter



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The Family History group supports members in researching their family history research. Members have ancestors from around the globe.

They meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

Come share your research triumphs, your family treasures, and your family research challenges with the Maple Ridge Family History Group.

### Success with First Ballymena Church

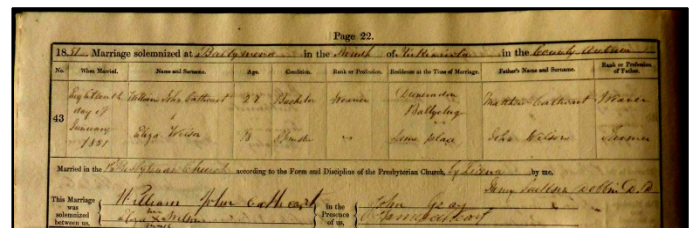
by Vicki Cathcart

As I continue on with my research for my husband's family in Ireland, I hit a bit of a brick wall concerning his Great-great Grandfather Mathew Cathcart. GRONI (General Register Office Northern Ireland) gave me limited information, namely his marriage and his childrens' births; who I will be researching at some point to see where they all went. One thing I had discovered was that GRONI does not have birth records from before January 1, 1864. The year I needed was 1854.

After a day or two, I was online researching Ireland and came across a website called *Ireland Reaching Out*. I joined the site and wrote out a message for "Researching a birth record". The following day I received a response, letting me know of a church to look up. It was Ballymena third Presbyterian Church, unfortunately I couldn't find that church, but I did find the First Ballymena Church, so I once again put in my message and hoped for the best. The website it is all done by volunteers and could take up to a month to even look at any messages. I was extremely surprised when I not only got a

response back two days later, but was given Mathew's date of birth, along with all his siblings births and his parents' marriage certificate! I think I might have screamed and jumped up and down, I was so excited!

For the next couple of days I was in contact with a very nice man named George Graham, my saviour for these records. As I told him, I wish that I could have been there to find all these records for myself, but living in Canada, it's very difficult and I have to either rely on family who have busy lives in Ireland, or wait for these volunteers to get information for me, or not getting responses at all. George even went the extra mile for me by taking pictures of every record including the marriage, and both covers of the birth and marriage registers. I received in total 24 pictures.



Apart from finally learning about Mathew, I found out that he had three sisters: Mary Jane, Elizabeth and Sarah, as well as four brothers: John, David, Alexander and James.

I have also been in contact with Elizabeth's Great Granddaughter Anne, who lives in Australia. It's so nice to have found someone who would go the extra mile and also to now be in contact with another part of the family. I hope to continue on with my journey of research, by trying to find the descendants of Mathew's siblings and his children.

## Online Resources

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### Irish Resources

- General Register Office Northern Ireland (GRONI): <http://www.nidirect.gov.uk/index.htm>
- Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI): [www.proni.gov.uk](http://www.proni.gov.uk)
- Ireland Reaching Out: [www.irelandxo.com](http://www.irelandxo.com)
- Census of Ireland 1901/1911 and Census fragments and substitutes, 1821-51: [www.nationalarchives.ie](http://www.nationalarchives.ie)
- A selection of Roman Catholic, Church of Ireland, and a small number of Presbyterian church records and Civil records: [www.irishgenealogy.ie/en](http://www.irishgenealogy.ie/en)
- National Library of Ireland is to give free online access to its Catholic Church records collection online, from summer 2015: [www.nli.ie](http://www.nli.ie)

### South Australian Land Records

[www.sailis.sa.gov.au](http://www.sailis.sa.gov.au)

The South Australian Integrated Land Information System (SAILIS) website allows users to search South Australian land records online from 1858.

These include original images that you can view online, download and save. Historical records are free.

There is a tutorial on the Gould Genealogy site.

[www.gouldgenealogy.com/2015/05/south-australian-land-records-online-and-free/](http://www.gouldgenealogy.com/2015/05/south-australian-land-records-online-and-free/)

### Sussex Record Society

[www.sussexrecordsociety.org](http://www.sussexrecordsociety.org)

A new website just launched by the Sussex Record Society. It has general Sussex info and also includes over 150,000 records.

### VanMap – 1912 Layer

<http://vancouver.ca/your-government/vanmap.aspx>

There is now a VanMap layer made from a mosaic of plates from *Goad's 1912 Fire Insurance Plan*. You can find it in Vanmap's Aerial Imagery category. See more on *The City of Vancouver Archives Blog*:

[www.vancouverarchives.ca](http://www.vancouverarchives.ca)

### War Diaries at Ancestry

[www.ancestry.co.uk](http://www.ancestry.co.uk)

Ancestry has added over 400,000 pages from WW1 war diaries. These war diaries document operations for British and colonial units serving in theatres of operations between 1914 and 1920, including Russia, at home, and in the colonies, as well as British military missions and Armies of Occupation between 1919 and 1920. In some cases the deaths of individual soldiers are mentioned.

### Ontario BMDs at FamilySearch

<https://familysearch.org/>

The Archives of Ontario successfully signed a licencing agreement with Family Search International (FSI) to make available online several years of historical Ontario vital statistics records previously available only on microfilm. Births: 1869-1910; marriages: 1869-1927; and deaths: 1869-1937 are available online.

## Family History Events

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### Abbotsford Genealogical Society

[www.abbygs.ca](http://www.abbygs.ca)

- **General Meeting and Panel Discussion** with AGS Executive, gain insight into how to plan a genealogical trip; undertake beginner research; search for First

Nations records; and use genealogy computer programs to create reports and charts.

There will also be an opportunity to identify areas of special interest to members. The special interests will be used to plan 2015/16 educational presentations, speakers and workshops. Thursday, June 18, 2015, 6:00pm. The Reach, Studio 2.

### British Columbia Genealogical Society

[www.bcgsg.ca](http://www.bcgsg.ca)

- **BCGS Annual Strawberry Tea and BCGS Family History Book Awards**, Wednesday, June 10, 2015 7:30 pm – 10:00 pm. Danish Lutheran Church Downstairs Hall, 6010 Kincaid St., Burnaby, BC.

### Cloverdale Library

[www.surreylibraries.ca](http://www.surreylibraries.ca)

- **Start Searching Your Family History: A Beginners Workshop in Five Lessons** with Brenda L. Smith, Mondays 5:30 – 8:30 pm. Sept 21, Oct 5 & 19, Nov 2 & 16. Fee: \$100.

### Finding Your Roots Seminar

[www.findingyourroots.ca](http://www.findingyourroots.ca)

- **Family History Seminar** with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, schedule and instructors TBA. 6270 - 126 St Surrey. Saturday, Oct 17, 2015. Fee: Free. Sack-Lunch: \$5.

### Vancouver Public Library

[www.vpl.ca/programs/](http://www.vpl.ca/programs/)

- **Genealogy Workshop**, Tuesday, June 16, 2015, 2:00 – 3:30 pm. Central Library.
- **Genealogy Road Show**, Saturday, October 3, 2015, 2:00 – 5:00 pm. Central Library.