

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 April meeting will be April 6, 2011.

I Have a Photograph

By Sandra Ayres

I have a photograph, taken in 1988, which I love as it is of my paternal grandparents with my first child. It is a simple photo, yet it evokes many, many memories that enrich the telling of the family story.



Grandpa Mason has his arm around Grandma, as he so often did. They had been married 59 years when the photo was taken. I am sure the strength of their marriage was part of why all their children had long marriages.

Grandma has Alex in her arms. Something I treasure. They were the first family to see him after his birth. They even extended a visit to the Lower Mainland to have that privilege as he was not accommodating in arriving on time. It meant the world to me for them to see him first; only later was I told they stayed longer than they intended to do so.

Behind Grandma is a quilted pillow. It stands as a reminder of the hobby she loved. Each

grandchild received a quilt, made with love as wedding gifts. Often Grandpa would cut the pieces for Grandma to sew. Great grandchildren would get baby quilts. Pillows and even cheese boxes were quilted. This only ceased when it was not possible.

In the top corner is probably the best story of all. There sits a silver and white teddy bear. He is not old; he is not the child's.

My Mom had called one day and through the course of our conversation she lamented that once again she did not know what to get Grandma Mason for Christmas. I was eager to tell her what I had planned that year and why a teddy would be a great gift.

I do not recall just what prompted our conversation to get on the subject but Grandma had told me about the only teddy bear she had ever received. She was especially fortunate that Christmas for she had received not only a bear but also a doll. It came to pass that she learned that the little girl down the road had not received a gift at all that Christmas [this would have been before the Depression]. It troubled Grandma so she, as a young child herself, made the ultimate sacrifice. She gave her teddy to the little girl, to make her life brighter. I still recall Grandma getting quiet as she

said to me, "I never received another teddy bear".

Mom became quiet on the phone. In a soft voice she asked if she could have the privilege of giving Grandma a teddy. I generously obliged.

That teddy sat on the top of the chesterfield for as long as Grandma lived in her home. After Grandpa's passing, teddy was a comfort to Grandma, serving as a great hug partner on those times when she needed one and no one was around. It now sits in my parents' bedroom, a testament to love and caring from one generation to another.

Online Resources

1911 Scotland Census

The Registrar General for Scotland has announced that the 1911 census will be released on Tuesday 5 April 2011.

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

The records will include the name, address, age, occupation, birthplace and marital status of everyone counted in the 1911 census, as well as details about their children.

New At Ancestry

Ottawa, Ontario Beechwood Cemetery Registers 1873-1990

<http://search.ancestry.ca/search/d.b.aspx?dbid=2168>

Updates at Library and Archives Canada

Soldiers of the First World War - CEF

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/cef/001042-100.01-e.php>. The LAC has now digitized 1,149 WWI service records.

History Fair

The local Community Heritage Commission presents young historians, grades 4-10, in a history fair.

Wednesday, April 20, 2011, 3:00 pm - 5:00pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

For information call 604-467-7417

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

- **Spring Seminar** with Professional Genealogist Lyn Meehan, Saturday, May 6, 2011. Doors open for registration at 10:00 am, Clearbrook Public Library, Fee: \$30 Before April 15, 2011, \$35 afterward.

Program

- **Canada's National Treasure** 10:30 am -12:30 pm
- **Before and Beyond the Internet** 1:30 pm -2:45 pm
- **Research Plans that Work!** 2:45 pm -4:00 pm.

Printable Registration Form at: www.abbygs.ca

For more information call Donna at 604-855-3693.

Maple Ridge Library

- **100 years of Canadian War Brides**, with Annette Fulford,

Thursday May 19, 2011, 2:00 pm -3:00 pm. Fee: Free.

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.

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

- **Genealogy in Ireland**, Tuesday, April 12, 2011, 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm in the Peter Kaye Room, Lower Level, Central Library. Seating is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee: Free.
- **Resources for Discovering First Nations Heritage**, with Laurie Cooke, Tuesday, May 24, 2011, 2:30 pm -4:00 pm in the Alma VanDusen Room, Lower Level, Central Library. Seating is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee: Free.
- **Chinese Genealogy Research Workshop: Overview**, with May Yan, Tuesday, June 14, 2011, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm in the Alma VanDusen Room, Lower Level, Central Library. Seating is limited and will be on a first-come, first-served basis. Fee: Free.