

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 4, 2012.

The Illusive Mr. Perry

By Sarah Nelson

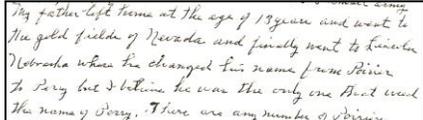
I was contacted by someone knew I was researching her great-grandmother Charlotte. Our shared connection was through the great-grandmother's daughter Jessie from a second marriage, who was married to a distant cousin of mine.

This new found friend, Wendy, was new to genealogy, so asked me if I could help her figure out her great-grandfather's name. My tree had included a record from the 1900 US Census from Colville, Washington, with the children from her first marriage listed with the surname "Perry".

Wendy shared what she knew about her great-grandfather's story. Family lore suggested that he'd been struck and killed by lightning. She had also heard that her great grandfather was from France, and that he had anglicized his name from Perrier or Poirier. With this information, I began researching both up and down through census data to help paint a fuller family picture. Since most of the 1890 US Census records were destroyed by fire, I tried to find Charlotte in the 1880 census in Washington, and for all Charlottes born in Iowa (based on the 1900 census birth location), both searches to no avail.

Next I began looking for Mr. Perry by guessing that his

firstborn son bore his name. When I found nothing, I talked to Wendy about my hunch, and she realized there was a first born son named Frank missing from this census and my tree. So I began looking for a Frank Perry, Perrier or Poirier. Through Wendy's mother, we got an old letter from a great aunt with great information. Though she never mentioned Mr. Perry by first name, she shared siblings' names of André, Délina and Gregory. This letter further clarified that Mr. Perry had changed his name from Poirier, that he'd come from St. Césaire, Quebec, that her father (Mr. Perry) married in Lincoln, Nebraska and that she had been born in Keya Paha, Nebraska.



Excerpt from great-aunt's letter

She also mentioned how she visited her uncle Gregory in Kansas; in researching the 1880 US census, I was able to locate a G. R. Poirier in Goshen, Kansas. An 1871 Canada Census record in St. Césaire also looked promising with records for an (older) Gregoire, along with André and Délina Poirier, and a birth record from the Drouin collection helped confirm details of this story.

Using another clue from the letter, I used searched Google

with keywords "lottie perry keya paha" and found a GenWeb project with Keya Paha marriages, which provided me with her maiden name, while another search on Interment.net in Keya Paha finally yielded his name.

I contacted the person who contributed the cemetery data, who kindly searched for and sent a photo of Frank's tombstone, helping lay our joint search to rest.



Wendy is now acquainted with living Poiriers through Facebook, and will be looking for Keya Paha newspaper records of her great grandfather's death.

Online Resources

New at Family Search Labs

<https://www.familysearch.org/>

Some records are searchable, while others are browse only.

- British Isles : England, Kent, Land Tax Assessments, 1689-1832 England, Derbyshire, Church of England Parish Registers, and much more.
- Europe: Austria, Seigniorial Records, 1537-1888
- Czech Republic, Censuses, 1843-1921; Land Records, 1450-1850; Trebon, and much more.

Family History Show and Share

Join the Maple Ridge Family History Group at Maple Ridge Library for our **Show and Share**.

April 21, 2012 11:00am-3:00 pm

Join us in the computer lab 11:00 am-12:00 pm: and 12:00 pm-1:00 pm. Join us in the Fraser Room for presentations and displays 1:00 pm-3:00 pm. Bring your scrapbooks and displays and share your stories.

Register by email avidgenie@hotmail.com or by phoning Maple Ridge Museum & Archives at 604.463.5311.

Family History Events

BCGS

- **Dave Obee**, Saturday, April 14, 2012, 8:30 am-4:00 pm. At the Danish Lutheran Church, Downstairs Hall - 6010 Kincaid Street, Burnaby, BC

For more info see:

http://bcgs.zenutech.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/Dave_Obee_brochure-BCGS-2012.pdf

Clearbrook Library

- **Ancestry.com – Search For Your Roots** with Chris Longley, Tuesday, Mar 20, 2:00pm-4:00pm. Registration required. Fee: free.

Ladner Pioneer Library

- **Key Websites for Canadian Immigration and Census Records**, with M. Diane Rogers Thursday, March 22, 2:00pm-3:30pm. Drop in.

Langley Library

- **Find Your Family in the Library** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, May 12, 2:00pm-3:00pm. Registration required. Fee: free.

Tsawwassen Library

- **Key Websites for Canadian Immigration and Census Records**, with M. Diane Rogers, Thursday, March 29, 2:00pm-3:30pm. Drop in.

Surrey Libraries

5642-176A Street, Surrey offers free orientations the 1st Saturday of every month 10:00 – 10:50am.

- **Finding Your Scottish Roots** with Lorraine Irving, Saturday, March 31, 10:30-Noon. Fee: \$10.00.
- **Killing Them Softly: End of Life Documents are the Place to Start** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, April 14, 11:00am-12:30pm. Fee: \$10:00.
- **Social Networking 101 for Family History** with M. Diane Rogers, Saturday, May 12, 10:30-Noon. 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

- **Canadian Genealogy 101**, Sunday May 6, 12:30 pm-2:00 pm. Central Library. Registration required. Fee: Free.

For more information please contact Fine Arts and History at 604-331-3716.