

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 3, 2013.

On the Trail of the Clares

By Sandra Ayres

By using the Royal British Columbia Museum genealogy database searchcollections.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca, I have been able to further my search for the relatives that are less known to the family. It is interesting what comes up in that search. Consider the trail of Helen McDonald Miller and Robert Clare.

I assumed that Helen and Robert were the parents of two sons, George Robert Clare and Richard Wilson Clare. On closer look, I realized the boys were born in the late 1910's yet the marriage of Helen and Robert was in Penticton in 1936. That meant there had to be another mother. Using the database, it was a quick summation to find the marriage of Robert to Alice Newhouse in Hedley in 1915. Poor woman, she must have died while the boys were still in their teens...or so I thought until I looked up her death certificate under Alice Clare.

Alice resided in Campbell River at the time of her death in 1966. She did not remarry. It wasn't until I looked very closely at her marriage certificate to Robert Clare that I discovered a handwritten notation directly below the document title. "Marriage dissolved at Vancouver BC on October 11,

1935". What a wonderful extra piece of information!

Now I just need to work carefully on the next generation for it will prove to be complicated. It turns out that while Helen McDonald Miller is my grand aunt [on my mother's father's side], her step son Richard Wilson Clare married Agnes Mureen Phillips who is also my grand aunt [on my mother's mother's side!].

Should I also mention that Helen's two brothers married two sisters who just happen to be sisters with Agnes Mureen...

More on the characters below...

Helen McDonald Miller was born in 1896 in Caithness Scotland. She ventured to Canada in 1928 with her widowed father, Murdoch Ross Miller and youngest brother James to join the rest of her siblings [with the exception of Peter who died in World War 1] and with the intention of immigrating. They joined the rest of the family in Coalmont British Columbia. She was 31 years old at that time and never had any children of her own. I suspect she took over the housekeeper role when her mother died in 1920. Brothers John Alexander and James married Phillips girls.

Robert Clare was born in 1892 in Cheshire England. He was a mechanic working in Blakeburn British Columbia around the time he met Helen. By this time

period, his sons were men in their own right.

In 1934, John Albert Phillips moved his wife, four daughters and two sons to Coalmont.

Daughters Ellen and Evelyn married the Miller boys. Sister Agnes Mureen married Richard Wilson Clare.

Online Resources

New at Family Search

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

- BC Land Records Collection
 - Canada, British Columbia, Crown Land Grants, 1869-1930
 - Canada, British Columbia, Dominion Land Branch Records, 1885-1949
- Manitoba, Census Indexes, 1831-1870: Includes census records taken by Hudson's Bay Company, 1831-1856 and the 1870 provincial census.
- England, Cheshire, Register of Electors, 1842-1900
- Scotland Census, 1891
- Isle of Man Deaths and Burials, 1844-1911

FamilySearch Has Launched Family Tree

FamilySearch has now launched Family Tree, Family Tree, is a free, online family history tree service at FamilySearch.org. Family Tree is now available at FamilySearch.org (Look for the Family Tree tab).

The Hudson's Bay Company Archives

<http://www.gov.mb.ca/chc/archive/s/hbca/>

Manchester Maps

The University map collection is the largest in the North West and comprises approximately 150,000 printed map sheets and 1,300 atlases.

<http://enriqueta.man.ac.uk/luna/servlet/maps2~1~1>

Blitz Bombs Mapped

An interactive map of London that shows the location of every German bomb that landed in London over the eight month Blitz of WWII.

<http://www.bombsight.org/#15/51.5050/-0.0900>

Women's Royal Voluntary Service

This fully searchable catalogue contains listings, many with preview images of a selection of historical material housed in their Archive & Heritage Collection.

<http://catalogue.wrvs.org.uk/cal/mview/>

Family History Events

BCGS

- **BCGS Seminar:** The British Army in Canada 1750-1871; Canadians at War – 1885 Rebellion; South African 1899-1902; First & Second World Wars; Pre 1865 Immigration; What's new at Ancestry? with Glenn T. Wright and Lesley Anderson, Saturday, April 27, 2013, 8:30am – 4:30pm Danish Lutheran Church, Burnaby. Fee: \$45 for BCGS & Affiliate [Society] Members; \$55.00 for non-members.

Details on the BCGS website. www.bcg.ca/?page_id=2511

Langley Centennial Museum

9135 King Street, Fort Langley, phone: 604.532.3536, website: langleymuseum.org

- **Genealogy: Casting the Net** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, March 30, 2013, 2:00pm – 3:30pm. Fee: \$17.25.

Surrey Libraries

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

- **A la Carte: Using Maps in Family History** with Brenda L. Smith, Saturday, April 6, 2013, 11:00am – 12:30pm. Fee: \$10.00
- **Tracing your English Ancestors from Canada** with Susan Snalam. Saturday, May 4, 2013, 11:00am – 12:30pm. 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

Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street.

- **FamilySearch: Finding and Sharing Your Family Story**, Thursday, April 18, 2013, 2:30 pm. Fee: Free.
- **Genealogy in England**, Wednesday April 17, 2013, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm. Fee: Free.

Surrey Tri-Stake

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

www.findingyourroots.ca