

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.

Email: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

FHG 20th Anniversary

Celebrating two decades of seeking and telling family stories.

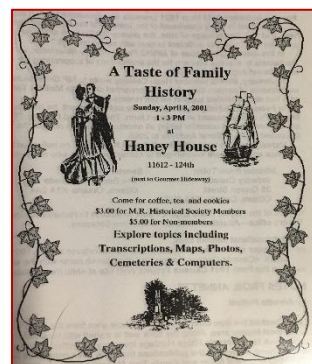
In 1997 the Maple Ridge Historical Society held a Show and Tell at the Maple Ridge Library.

In 1999 a small group of people met once a month in various member's living rooms to share their family history discoveries. The Maple Ridge Family History Group was founded as a standing committee of the Maple Ridge Historical Society (MRHS). The goals of the group are: to share family history passion; support learning of research skills; communicate developments in field, member accomplishments, family history events and training opportunities; and advocate for researchers and record access.

A newsletter was started in April 1999 put together by Annette Fulford and Brenda Smith and sent out with the MRHS newsletter.

Annette took on the role of secretary and managed the communications for the group.

"A Taste of Family History" was held at Haney House in April 2000 & 2001.



By 2006, the group had outgrown the living rooms and the group moved to meetings at the Maple Ridge Library in the Greenside Room.

In 2007, Andrea Lister joined the group and became a co-editor of the newsletter. Articles are submitted by members of the group.

In 2015 Gina Leigh took over the role of secretary and managing communications. Due to rising printing and postage costs the newsletter started to be hosted on the Maple Ridge Museum website and distributed via an email list. The group grew again, and moved to Fraser Room with help from Parks Recreation and Culture Arts and Community Connections Manager Yvonne Chui.

Also in 2015, Alberta McNamara took on the role of program director and organized programs that stimulate attendance and meet educational goals, including: brainstorming on brick walls, examining members' photos for dating clues, family artifact show and tell, family holiday traditions, and remembering ancestors with military service or who were impacted by conflicts. Each meeting has a guest speaker or theme. Every meeting still has time for members to share their research triumphs and treasures, problems, and resources.

At the beginning of 2018, in response to group growth and the anti-spam legislation, the group began to distribute the newsletter and additional communications through MailChimp. The newsletter remains as a printable PDF on the museum website. In September 2018, the newsletter shifted to a bi-monthly schedule.

Fraser Valley Regional Library is a significant partner, supporting program and maintaining on site access to Ancestry Library Edition since 2010. The Family History Group is a partner in the Local Voices

program at Maple Ridge Library. Over the years, the group has done displays at the library and family history events, computer lab sessions at both the Maple Ridge and Pitt Meadows locations, and participated at Family Literacy Day. The group now maintains three display cases at the library (under the stairs). Our display windows are updated every couple of months with new displays. Displays included: Maple Ridge Soldiers of World War I by Annette Fulford, The Pugh Family in Cloverdale by Brenda Smith and The Stanley Park Rock Garden by Chris Hay.

The Family History Group actively supports a variety of projects. Several of our members present to other genealogical societies throughout British Columbia and beyond.

Members from the larger group formed a pilot project in 2015 to research a set of questions posed by Maple Ridge Museum and Archives staff regarding William Frederick Edge and Samuel Edge, early settlers to Maple Ridge. The completed "Edge Legacy Project" was presented at the Maple Ridge Heritage Awards in February, and the research materials and displays have been deposited in the community archives. From the scant information initially available, a family tree of over 160 individuals was created with documentation that showed their importance to the community and placed the family in a regional and national context.

This project has become an annual event. In 2017, some members of the group presented "Edmond Pope: The Evolution of a Citizen". Pope was, amongst other things, Maple Ridge's first constable and cemetery commissioner. In 2018, research was undertaken into the Haney family — their origins and their contributions to community building. The Hammond brothers, were the 2019 undertaking. Each project has collected research files that are donated to the archives and generated display boards that travel to different family history events throughout the province. Each project team has proudly accepted a Maple Ridge Heritage Commendation for excellence in enhancing the understanding of community history.



Join us for cake and a celebration of two decades of seeking and telling family stories at the April 3, 2019 meeting.

Looking Back at Twenty-Five Years of Family History Research

by Annette Fulford

Back in the 1990s when I began researching my family history, not a lot of resources were readily available to researchers. I spent most of my time writing to family members and archives or public record offices requesting information or documents. I also headed to the Vancouver Public Library (VPL), Burnaby Family History Center or Cloverdale Library to view microfilm. Trips to the mail box often contained lengthy letters or certificates from across the ocean. There was a lot that could be done if you persevered.

At the time, Cloverdale Library had the largest collection of records in the west; VPL had Canadian Census records and BC Vital Statistics on microfilm to view. The census records were slow to read, but thankfully, I had a lot of family members in the same small town in Ontario so I was able to find many of them within the census pages.

Viewing records at the Family History Center meant I had to order films in to view from Salt Lake City. Once I got the hang of how things worked, I was able to order in many films and find records from all over the globe. This was an exciting time and I was constantly amazed as I made my way back in time through the church and vital records.

A great way to learn more about the records for a certain region was to join a local genealogy or history group in the area. Members of the group often transcribed or indexed records for the area and made them available to a wider audience.

In 1997 my brother-in-law found my grandfather in the *Soldiers of the First World War – Canadian Expeditionary Force* database online. He sent me the info as I was very new to the online world back then. The Library and Archives Canada website has been changed a number of times in the past 20 year beginning with the National Archives of Canada, and then *Collections Canada* or *ArchiviaNet* as it was known.

In the 1990s and 2000s more books and magazines were published about researching your family history. Among the staples on my shelves were books by Angus Baxter, Sharon Debartolo Carmack, Penny Christensen, Althea Douglas, Brenda Dougall Merriman and Maureen Taylor and magazines like

Ancestry, Family Chronicle, Family Tree, and Internet Genealogy.

In the dawning of a new era of the World Wide Web, gradually more records were placed online at sites such as *Automated Genealogy, Internet Archive, Our Roots: Canada's Local Histories, Our Future Our Past, Our Ontario*, and *Peel's Prairie Provinces* to name a few. More local and regional sites began posting indexes to records. Many Canadian vital record indexes were placed online giving us further access to records. Several large genealogy sites became more popular such as *Ancestry, Ancestors on Board, Family Search*, and *FindMyPast*.

Another popular place to post about my research was on *Rootsweb*. I used their message boards and Mailing lists on a regular basis starting in 2002. It was during this year that I also subscribed to Ancestry for their Canadian records for the first time.

We have come a long way since I first began my research back in 1992. I'm glad I started before the ease of using online records. It has made me appreciate the indexed records, but it has also made me aware of flaws in the indexing and that there are a lot of records not indexed that are still available to access if you have the patience and perseverance to search through them. I have come so far since those days. I am constantly amazed by the depth of information I have been able to find along the way.

Hammond Brothers: Shaping the Landscape



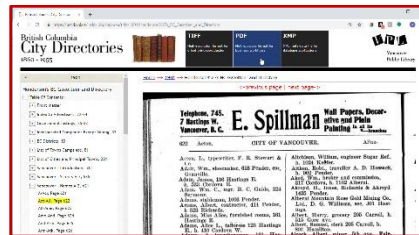
Alberta McNamara and Sue Sullivan. Photo by Darren Durupt

The 2019 community research project received a commendation award at the Heritage Awards in February.

Research Tip

by Annette Fulford

When viewing BC directories at the Vancouver Public Library <https://bccd.vpl.ca/index.php> choose a year and page to view, advance the image a few pages, and then click on the PDF version at the top of the page.



It will give you a PDF of the whole area (ex. Vancouver) and you can search for a name using the find option. If you are looking for a person in a small town but don't know where they are, it will give you a PDF of the province in which to search.

Note: The PDF option is not available for all sections of the directories. Also, it does not work as well for really common surnames but at least you don't have to search in each town in the province.

News Release

Vernon, Ontario Directories Digitization Project

OTTAWA, ONTARIO (18 February 2019)—The Ontario Genealogical Society (OGS) and The Library and Archives Canada (LAC) are working with FamilySearch International to digitize the historical Vernon directories for the Canadian province of Ontario. The initiative will begin immediately to preserve and make the directories freely searchable online for family historians, researchers, and Canadians.

Vernon directories were published yearly, by city, from the 1890's to 2014, missing only 2010, when the company's ownership changed. They cover most of Ontario, including the province's capital city of Toronto. The name "Vernon directories" is derived from the name of the publisher. The initiative will span the next 2 years and encompass an estimated 1,300 directories in total.

Online Resources

Church Courts of the diocese of York

www.dhi.ac.uk/causepapers/

A searchable catalogue of more than 14,000 cause papers relating to cases heard between 1300 and 1858 in the Church Courts of the diocese of York.

Royal College of Surgeons

<https://archiveandlibrary.rcsed.ac.uk/>

Records of over 20,000 fellows and members dating from 1505 to 1918 plus documents and photographs. Includes a surgeons database.

Yorkshire Societies

<http://awfhs.org.uk/portal/>

On the 1st January 2019 the Keighley and District FHS merged with the Wharfedale FHG creating what is now known as the Airedale and Wharfedale Family History Family History Society.

Dictionary of the Scots Language

www.dsl.ac.uk/

Electronic versions of the two major historical dictionaries of the Scots language: the 12-volume Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue and the 10-volume Scottish National Dictionary. Type in a word from a document and find out the definition.

Ordnance Survey Maps

<https://maps.nls.uk/>

The National Library of Scotland has added 8,949 Ordnance Survey Maps from the 1950s and 1960s to its free maps website.

Monumenta

<http://ww1monumenta.com/>

Explore 360-degree photographic panoramas of 500 First World War Commonwealth cemeteries.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Family History Center

www.abbotsfordfamilyhistory.com

Abbotsford Family History Day, Saturday, May 4, 2019, 8:30am – 3:30pm. 30635 Blueridge Drive
Fee: Free.

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

Studio 2 The Reach

<http://abbygs.ca/index.html>

- **After They Landed: Use Timelines to Develop Your Family Narrative** with Brenda L. Smith, March 21, 2019, 1:30pm

BC Genealogical Society

www.bcgs.ca

- **2019 Seminar with Cyndi Ingle** with A full day of talks from Cyndi of Cyndi's List, the Boutique book store and BCGS publications. Saturday, March 30, 2019. Fee: \$85.00 for BCGS & Affiliate Society Members; \$105.00 for non-members

British Columbia Historical Federation

www.bchistory.ca/conference

- **2019 BCHF Annual Conference**. June 6–9, 2019. The 2019 BCHF conference is being held in Courtenay and Comox.

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca

Register a 604-598-7327 or by email: familyhistory@surrey.ca.

Limited parking until further notice, parking is unavailable at Cloverdale Library due to construction.

- **First Steps on the Ancestral Trail**, with Brenda L. Smith, Sat Mar 2, 2019, 11:30 am to 1:00, Fee: Free.
- **An Illness in the House** with Brenda L. Smith, Sat Apr 6, 2019, 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Fee: Free.

Skagit Valley Genealogical Society

<http://skagitvalleygenealogy.org/>

- **Nordic Roots 2019**, with Torolf Torgersen and Evelyn Roehl, Saturday, March 23, 2019, 9:00am to 3:30pm, Mount Vernon, WA. Fee: \$55 USD for non-members.

Maple Ridge Family History Group, first Wednesday of the month, 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

March 6, 2019: Copyright and Family Historian – Andrea Lister & Brenda Smith

April 3, 2019: Challenge results – “Solving that Burning Issue”. Members sharing their findings.

May 1, 2019: Do you have a prisoner/convict in your family history? – Brenda Smith

June 5, 2019: Family Search Digital Library – Gina Leigh

Members are encouraged to suggest themes/topics for the Short Program.