

Family History Newsletter



Editors: Annette Fulford, Andrea Lister
Contributors: Family History Group

Production: Val Patenaude
Distribution: Brenda L. Smith

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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

Cost of repairs and difficulty obtaining parts meant researchers often couldn't read film for months or longer when the equipment broke down. In 2018 the Maple Ridge Library began the replacement process. With financial support from the Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission an STImaging ViewScan 4 was purchased.



The ST ViewScan 4 and dedicated family history computer.

This is an exciting acquisition for Maple Ridge Public Library, for researchers and for family historians. The unit is the only microfilm reader/printer in the entire Fraser Valley Regional Library (FVRL) system.

Microfilm may seem an outdated technology. Not so. A surprisingly large number of records and documents are only available on microfilm or microfiche.

Maple Ridge Library's microfilm collection of local newspapers has not been digitized and they are not available electronically. The collection consists of: *Haney Gazette* (1922-1984), *Maple Ridge News* (1979-1996), *Maple Ridge/Pitt Meadows News* (1997-2012). In addition, the library has microfilm of: *Daily British Columbian* (1861-1869), *Mainland Guardian* (1870-1889), *Fraser Valley Record* (Mission, 1908-1927), BC Census (1881, 1891, 1901), BC Directories (1860-1910), BC Death Index (1872-1978), BC Marriage Index (1872-1924).



The original state-of-the-art microfilm reader.

A State-of-the-Art Tool

By Gina Leigh

A State-of-the-Art Tool. This was the page 2 headline in April 1999 when the first issue of the *Family History Newsletter* was published. The article heralded the acquisition by Maple Ridge Public Library of a state-of-the-art microfilm/fiche reader/printer. Twenty years later the headline is again apt as the Maple Ridge Public Library has recently unveiled their latest state-of-the-art microfilm reader/printer.

More recent editions of the local paper have been digitized and are available through e-editions on the *Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows News* website or via the library subscription database Canadian Newsstream.

The ST ViewScan 4 is a standalone unit linked to a computer dedicated to family history research. It is far more than just a reader/printer where images are advanced one frame at a time, although it does do that also. Film and fiche can be searched using optical character recognition (OCR) enabling searching by words. High resolution image sensors provide crisper images. Capture the entire image or just a portion. Resize an image. Add notes and highlights to an image. Combine, arrange and edit multiple images into one page. Print, save to a USB stick, or send images by email. Easy to use instructions are on hand as well as an online tutorial.

Microfilm can be borrowed from archives, government institutions and other libraries who make their collections available through inter-library loans. See library staff to make arrangements.

Acquiring the ViewScan 4 has enabled FVRL Administration to “read” some of their old records which were only on microfilm. Likewise for the Maple Ridge Museum and Archives. Entire rolls of film can be scanned and saved digitally in minutes.

And just a reminder that FVRL library card holders can access Ancestry Library Edition for free at any branch of the library.

Maple Ridge Community Heritage Commission’s Heritage Awards

The City of Maple Ridge Heritage Awards recognize special initiatives, accomplishments and projects that have advanced heritage conservation and awareness in our community.

The sub-group of the Family History Group that took on the Hammond Project received a heritage award.

Gina Leigh received the Maple Ridge Award for History and Heritage Research and Publication for researching the First World War veterans who died at the Allco Infirmary, and for working with the Last Post Fund “Unmarked Grave Program” to install permanent military-style markers for Frederick and Albert Sykes who previously lay in unmarked graves at the Maple Ridge Cemetery and in Kamloops.



Erica Williams, Susan Sullivan, Councillor Ryan Svendsen, Alberta McNamara, Brenda Smith, Andrea Lister, and Gina Leigh.



Gina Leigh.



Fifth Annual Abbotsford Family History Day

Introduction by Brenda L. Smith

Congratulations to the Abbotsford Family History Centre for producing the very successful 2019 Abbotsford Family History Day. This seminar, along with its sisters in Victoria and Surrey, are outstanding offerings of training for family historians and others interested in the many topics that our research investigate in telling our family stories. Special thanks to Jean Evans, outgoing FHC Director, and welcome to Jen Haddad as she embraces Jean's role.

Maple Ridge Family History Group has participated in this annual event since its inception. We provide displays and support in the exhibition hall, presenters, and learners in the sessions. Our members value the training and the networking, essential to productive historical research.



Seminar Team leaders l to r: Lyn McGonigal, Jen Haddad, Jean Evans. Photo by Erica Williams

Abbotsford Family History Day strengthening family ties across generations by Jennifer Haddad, Abbotsford Family History Centre Director

We better understand ourselves as we look to our roots. The Abbotsford Family History Centre felt that to help people find their roots and to strength family ties across generations they would host a Family History Day encouraging the excitement and growing popularity over genealogy.

In 2015 what started out as a one-time event with 24 classes and 122 in attendance has now turned into an annual event offering up to 26 classes reaching 160 in

attendance. The centre has realized that there is a need for hosting such an event in the Fraser Valley and although the majority of attendees are in fact from the Fraser Valley there is a small group of attendees from the lower mainland locations and even smaller group of attendees outside of those perimeters. Also worthy to note, 5 years ago the majority in attendance were at a beginner expertise level and now the majority sit at the intermediate level.

This year's event took place on Saturday, May 4th, 2019, a day full of classes offering free workshops and an exhibit hall open to all individuals 11 and older. These workshops informed attendees on such topics as "Brick Walls Really", "Irish Family Research: Not All Records Were Burned", "I've Done my DNA What is Next" and "FamilySearch Research Wiki". Such topics enabled understanding in how to build family trees and seek out ancestors. As well, the seasoned speakers and subjects, gave attendees technology-based skills and insights helping the beginner and expert alike to learn the tools and techniques to help fortify and foster his/her family history through many generations.

For future information about the Abbotsford Family History Day visit

www.abbotsfordfamilyhistory.com.

Abbotsford Family History Day Committee: David Bigler; Jean Evans; Paul Evans; Jennifer Haddad; Sharon Harrison; Lyn McGonigal; Ron Purvis; Christina Sadler

About the Abbotsford Family History Centre

The AFHC is staffed by volunteers and provides free access to many subscription genealogy websites. Its purpose is to provide resources in assisting the research and study of genealogy and family history through one-on-one assistance, issuing access to genealogical records through the Internet, on hand microfilm/fiche, books and offering free how-to classes. The AFHC hours of operation – Monday & Friday 10 - 1 am, Tuesday & Thursday 6 - 9 pm. The Center runs September to June and offers limited summer dates (TBA)., closed stat holidays and two weeks at Christmas time.

Online Resources

Canadian Medical Association Journals

www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/journals/177/

Issues of the Canadian Medical Association Journals from 1911 to 1985 online.

Antiquarian Scottish Books

www.electricscotland.com/books/pdf/index.htm

The purpose of Electric Scotland is to make a body of work available so people can learn about the History of Scotland, the Scots and people and places of Scots descent.

Dublin Metropolitan Police and Civic Guard (Garda Síochána) Personnel Registers

<https://digital.ucd.ie/view/ucdlib:53465>

The two volumes in this collection contain hand written entries recording the details of recruits and applicants to the Dublin Metropolitan Police (DMP) and An Garda Síochána. The Civic Guard (Garda Síochána) Temporary Register covers the period from February 1922 to September 1924.

Points to the Past

www.fvrl.bc.ca

Points to the Past is a free research resource, produced by Gale in partnership with UBC, UVIC and SFU for use in British Columbia only. Its focus is North American and UK history, with an easy-to-use keyword search of primary sources including newspapers, maps and photographs. Check out Gale's promotional video and find *Points to the Past* on FVRL's list of databases, under History/Genealogy.
<https://support.gale.com/doc/bc-video-psintro>

The British Colonist

www.britishcolonist.ca

The *British Colonist* now goes from 1858–1980.

Vancouver Island Newspapers

<https://viurrspace.ca/handle/10613/6678>

- *Cowichan Leader* (1905-1928)
- *Nanaimo Free Press* (1874-1928)

RootsIreland

www.rootsireland.ie

New records for County Waterford. 38,000 Church of Ireland baptisms have been added to the database.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

- **Abby GS Expo**, September 14, 2019. Save the date for an event to engage interested newcomers and beginners to the family history experience. Family history groups will have tables and share their passion.

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.

Coquitlam Heritage

<https://www.coquitlamheritage.ca/eventslist/2019/5/16/family-interviews-101>

- **Family Interviews 101** with City of Coquitlam archivist Emily Lonie, Thursday, May 16, 2019, 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm, Mackin House. Registration Required. Free event. (16+).

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.

- **Fun Family History Fridays**, Fri Jun 7, 2019, 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm. Join in to share and explore different topics in family history. Free.
- **Seafaring Ancestors**, with Andrea Lister, Sat June 15, 2019, 11:00 am to 12:00, Fee: Free.
- **Genealogy Research at Library and Archives Canada** with Susanne Sulzberger, Archivist, Library and Archives Canada, Sat Jun 22 | 1:00 pm to 2:00 pm. Fee: Free.

Sardis Library Genealogy Group

www.fvrl.bc.ca

- **Prison and Court Records**, with Andrea Lister, Thurs July 18, 2019, 10:30 am to 12:00 pm. 5819 Tyson Road, Chilliwack BC. Free.

Surrey Family History Centre

www.findingyourroots.ca

- **Finding Your Roots Seminar**, Oct 19, 2019 all day. Schedule online. Free.

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

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

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