

Family History Newsletter

 MAPLE RIDGE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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March
2020

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.

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Dewdney Trunk Road – A Long Time A-Coming

by Brenda L. Smith

<https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcsessional>

To explore the collection of British Columbia Sessional Papers I chose a local landmark to link early references to road building in Maple Ridge.

According to the introduction to this record on the University of British Columbia Open Library site:

The British Columbia Sessional Papers are an annual collection of selected papers tabled in the Legislative Council of British Columbia (2nd to 8th Sessions, 1865-1871) and the Legislative Assembly (1st to 32nd Parliaments, 1872-1982).

The British Columbia Sessional Papers contain materials that document the political, historical, economic and cultural history of British Columbia. The Sessional Papers include official committee reports, orders of the day, petitions and papers presented, records of land sales, correspondence, budgetary estimates, proclamations, maps, voters lists by district, and departmental annual reports

I first became interested in road building in our community during the Pope Project undertaken by the Maple Ridge Family History Group. A petition signed by landowners of Township 12 was dated 1877. The request in this case was for River Road.

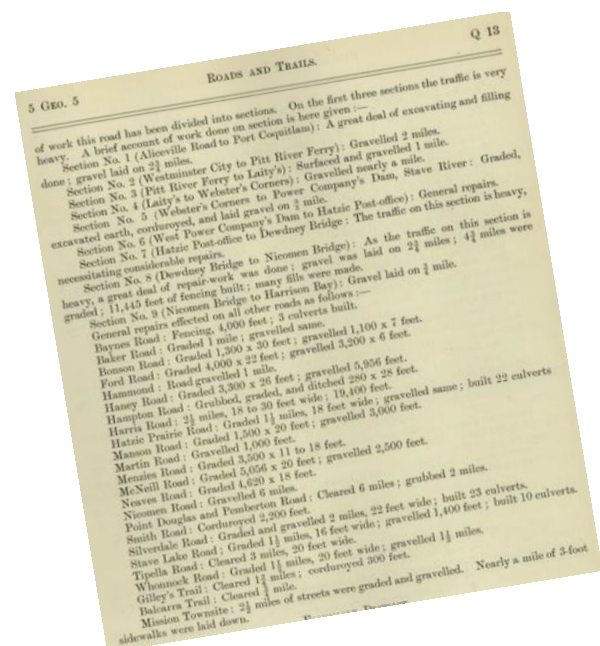
In the BC Sessional Papers, early references to Dewdney Trunk Road can be found in the Minister of Public Works report for 1900-1901. The follow is the most comprehensive description of the whole project found so far.

DEWDNEY DISTRICT.

Dewdney Trunk Road: This road was begun many years ago for the purpose of giving the settlers on the north side of the Fraser a through road, starting from New Westminster and vicinity and going as far east as the settlement at Agassiz. For the better administration

Dewdney District

Dewdney Trunk Road: This road was begun many years ago for the purpose of giving the settlers on the north side of the Fraser a through road, starting from New Westminster and vicinity and going as far as the settlement at Agassiz. For the better administration of work this road has been divided into sections. On the first three sections traffic is very heavy. A brief account of work done on section is here given:--



Maple Ridge and unincorporated Pitt Meadows were represented by three sections. Section 3 ran from Pitt River to Laity's with one mile surfaced and graveled. Section 4 carried travelers from Laity's to Webster's Corners, and Section 4, still under construction, extended to the Power Company Dam on the Stave River. For the full report see the online source below.

Sources

British Columbia Department of Lands and Works
1871-1908 *Maple Ridge Settlers' Petition for Road*.
Victoria: British Columbia Archives, GR 0868.3.20.6,
Box 3 File 20, 1872/77, Reel B16902.

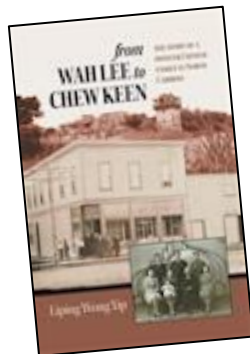
*Report Of The Minister Of Public Works Of The Province
Of British Columbia For The Fiscal Year 1913-14*,
<https://open.library.ubc.ca/collections/bcseasonal/items/1.0059778#p11z-2r0f, pages 12-13>

Genealogy Books

From Wah Lee to Chew Keen: The Story of a Pioneer Chinese Family in North Cariboo
by Liping Wong Yip

<https://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/from-wah-lee-to-chew/9781460294307-item.html>

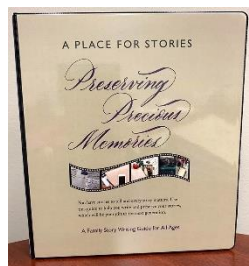
Who was Wah Lee? To the Keen family living in North Cariboo, BC, Wah Lee was their forefather from China; amongst local historians, Wah Lee is the name for a general store in Quesnel, BC. This book unravels the mystery of a name, which is also the story of a person, a business, and a family that traverses 150 years of history and crosses the Pacific from China to Canada. This book is a great resource for historians researching Chinese-Canadians.



A Place for Stories: Preserving Precious Memories

<https://aplaceforstories.com/>

You can purchase a hard copy or a digital copy of this workbook to will help you through the process, step-by-step, of creating and sharing your family stories. The binder system will help you organize and file stories, documents, and photographs according to theme. It includes: space to note ideas; sample stories on 15 themes; story prompts



Cloverdale Library Reopening

The Family History Department will be moving back to Cloverdale branch and reopening on Monday, March 9!

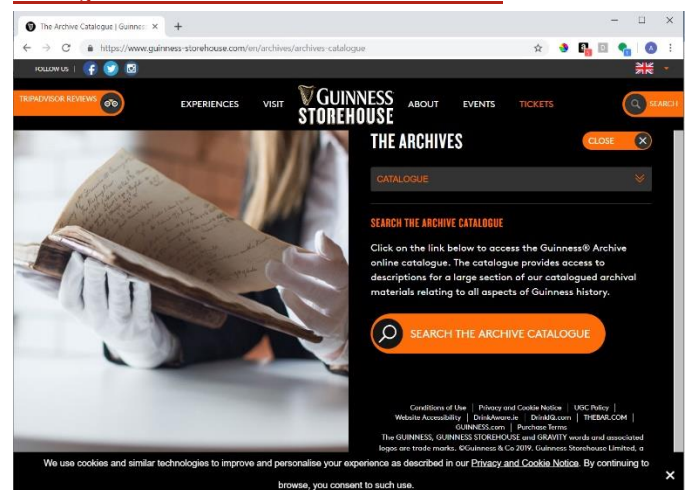
The Family History department will not be available AT ALL between February 23 and March 9, 2020.

Family History Tea & Social

Please join Cloverdale Library for a "Welcome Back" tea and social. Let them introduce you to their new space, new databases, and new books. Enjoy some refreshments and mingle with other family history enthusiasts. Friday, March 13, from 2pm to 4pm.

The Guinness Archive

www.guinness-storehouse.com/en/archives



Did your ancestor work for Guinness? The Guinness collection of personnel files of past employees includes records relating to more than 20,000 past employees from the early 1880s onwards, the date when the Guinness Company first introduced their pension scheme to all employees. You can search the database from their website but access to the original personnel files is available to direct family members in person.

The files hold details such as an employee's date of birth, details of education/ employment prior to entering the brewery, position(s) held in the Brewery, wages earned, payment of pension, and where applicable, payment of pension to the employee's widow on his death.

If you are in Dublin, the Guinness Archive is open by appointment on Monday to Friday from 9:30am-5:00pm.

Online Resources

New Brunswick Birth Records <https://archives.gnb.ca>

The Provincial Archives of New Brunswick has released 11,017 civil birth records for 1924 and made an index for them available online.

The index provides a transcription of the name of the child, sex, date and location of birth, and parents' names.

Wales Billion Graves Cemetery Index www.findmypast.com

Each entry has a transcript, with first name(s), last name, birth date, death date, cemetery, city, county and includes a link to an image of the headstone with GPS details.

U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947 www.ancestry.com/search/collectio ns/2238/

36 million United States, Second World War draft cards. "This database contains images and indexes for registration cards filled out by men born between the years of 1898 and 1929 from for all states with the exception of Maine. The draft cards from the state of Maine were destroyed before they could be digitized."

Details that can include: name, serial number, address and/or mailing address, telephone, age, place of birth, country of citizenship, employer's name, place of employment, and physical description.

2020 RootsTech Sessions www.rootstech.org/category/2020-rootstech-sessions

You can RootsTech presentations online in the video archive. No registration required.

Netherlands & Belgium

- WieWasWie – Netherlands Center for Family History: www.wiewaswie.nl/en/
- OpenArch – Dutch and Belgian archives: www.openarch.nl/?lang=en

Cyndi's List www.cyndislist.com

Cyndi's List has been around for more than 20 years but sometimes we forget to use it. *Cyndi's List* is FREE and is a good place to start when you ask yourself "I wonder if there are <insert record type>?"

What exactly is Cyndi's List?

- A categorized & cross-referenced index to genealogical resources on the Internet.
- A list of links that point you to genealogical research sites online.
- A "card catalog" to the genealogical collection in the immense library that is the Internet.

New Records on FamilySearch www.familysearch.org/en/

- American Samoa, Vital Records, 1850-1972
- Austria, Vienna, Jewish Registers of Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1784-1911
- Brazil, Minas Gerais, Civil Registration, 1879-1949

MyHeritage www.myheritage.com

MyHeritage has released a new collection of 545 million records from 25,000 historical US City Directories.

"The collection was produced exclusively by *MyHeritage* from 25,000 public U.S. city directories published between 1860 and 1960. It comprises 545 million aggregated records that have been consolidated from 1.3 billion records, many of which included similar entries for the same individual. This addition brings the total number of historical records on *MyHeritage* to 11.9 billion records.

Rootsweb E-mail Lists From Diane M. Rogers

Ancestry-Rootsweb announced recently that the thousands of Rootsweb e-mail lists will be discontinued as of 1 March 1, 2020. The volunteer administrators have found new homes for most. Some are now at groups.io which welcomed us. Some lists are now Facebook or Google groups.

If you were an old list member, you likely received an invitation to join the new list. Or to find a new list, usually you can Google (or Bing or DuckDuckGo) using the old list name and Rootsweb as search terms, e.g. YORKSGEN and Rootsweb. Or check the Ancestry-Rootsweb list archives as most admins posted a notice on the old list. A few lists have merged.

Ancestry-Rootsweb has promised to keep the list archives online (and the message boards active).

Family History Events

Abbotsford Family History Center

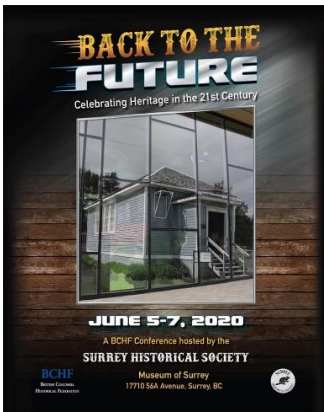
www.abbotsfordfamilyhistory.com

Abbotsford Family History Day, Saturday, April 25, 2020, 8:30am – 3:30pm. 30635 Blueridge Drive
Fee: Free.

BC Historical Federation

www.bchistory.ca/conference

- **2020 BCHF Annual Conference**, June 5–7, 2020. The 2020 BCHF conference is being held in Surrey.



Cloverdale Branch – Surrey Libraries

www.surreylibraries.ca

Free. Registration required.

- **Fun Family History Friday**, Friday April 3, 2:30 to 4:00pm, Join a free, drop-in chat for all family historians, beginners to experts. All family history topics welcome. Informal.
- **Family History Orientation**, Saturday, April 4, 10 to 11am,
- **Getting the Most From FamilySearch.org**, with Jeannie Vance, Director, Surrey Family History Centre Wed. April 15, 7pm to 8:15pm.
- **Introduction to Jewish Genealogy**, with Stephen Falk, David Scriven, and Cheryl Rimer of the Jewish Genealogical Society of BC Wed April 29, 7pm to 8pm.

Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

www.kdgs.ca

- **Harvest Your Family Tree** with Chris Paton, Angie Bush, Cyndi Ingle, Janice Nickerson and more. Friday, September 25–Saturday, September 26, 2020.

Maple Ridge Library

Local Voices: Neighbours

Talking With Neighbours

with Janeen Parent (Library Live and On Tour), Kathleen Spiess (Ridge Meadows Senior Society), Brenda Smith (Family History), March 2, 7pm. Free

Maple Ridge Seniors Activity Centre

- **Ridge Meadows Seniors Society Book Launch**, *Celebrating Seniors: A History of the Ridge Meadows Seniors Society*, March 6 at 2 pm
Free Family History Workshops with Brenda L. Smith. FREE, pre-registered, for 55+. Maple Ridge Seniors Activity Centre, 12150 224 St.

- **Firm Steps on the Ancestral Trail**, Wednesday, May 20, 10-11:30am
- **British Columbia Vital Records**, Thursday, May 28, 1:30-3:00pm
- **Family Archivist and Curator**, Wednesday, Jun 3, 10-11:30am

New Westminster Library

<https://www.nwpl.ca/>

All sessions are free but space is limited so pre-registration is required. To register call 604-527-4665.

- **Family History: Online Searches** with M Diane Rogers, Saturday, March 7, 2020, 1:30–3:00 pm.

- **Family History: Post-Second World War Immigration** with M Diane Rogers, Saturday, March 14, 2020, 1:30-3:00 pm.

Nanaimo Family History Society

http://nanaimofamilyhistory.ca/

- **Steps to Our Ancestors**, One day Beginners/Intermediate seminar, March 28, 2020, More details on agenda TBD.

Surrey Family History Centre

www.findingyourroots.ca

Finding Your Roots Seminar, October 17, 2020 all day. Schedule online. Free.

Vancouver Public Library

<https://www.vpl.ca/>

- **Adding DNA to Your Genealogy and Family History Tools**, with M. Diane Rogers, Tuesday, March 24, 2020, 6:00 pm–7:30 pm. Central Library.

Welsh Genealogy Group, Vancouver

www.welshsociety.com/Lab5/

- **Interpreting DNA Results - from the beginning!** Wednesday, April 15, 10:30 a.m. Red Dragon, Cambrian Hall, 215 E 17th Ave, Vancouver.

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

March 4, 2020: Marlene Dance – Living in Ruskin, 1950's and early 1960's.

April 1, 2020: New Year's Challenge results

May 6, 2020: Sharing research challenges and successes