

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 virtually.

Email: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

The COVID-19 Edition

by Andrea Lister

It is hard to stay focused and positive in the current climate so we thought we could put together a special edition of the newsletter to highlight some of the family history opportunities you can do from home. Thank you to Debbie, Jen, Gina, and Brenda for sending me content.

We had our first virtual meeting through ZOOM on April 1 with fifteen of us. We were given access to the British Columbia Historical Federation ZOOM room due to the membership of the Maple Ridge Historical Society. It was nice to see faces.

We plan to do it again for our May 6, 2020 meeting. Email us at mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com if you need assistance on how to join in.

Community History Project

by Andrea Lister

This year's community history project began with a desire to highlight the people typically left out of historical narratives. We started by transcribing the 1891 census for Maple Ridge. We noted that there were a vast number of people who listed fishing as their occupation so we selected two families to focus on: the Chiers (or Cheers) and the Nelsons.

Work is now continuing on digging through the census, vitals, directories, and newspapers.

I took a look for images in the Maple Ridge Museum & Archives collection to accompany our project and found image P0034.



The caption is:

Out fishing with Mr. LeHegaret (step-father to the Nelson Family) in bow with assistant. Mother and with daughters 2 and 3. Example of a fishing boat with no cabin.

For fun, I colourized it using the *MyHeritage* website.



Challenge: Can anyone identify the location?

Ideas to Keep Busy

Research Wiki

Family Search's Research Wiki, found under the Search tab. Watch tutorials on how to research in a specific country or area, learn about research tools, learn about the geography of the area, link to other online genealogical sites for the country.

Indexing

www.familysearch.org/indexing/

Consider becoming a Family Search Indexer. Isn't it great entering your ancestor's name, and perhaps a few details, into the search function and getting a result? This is possible because volunteers have indexed documents. Indexing makes records searchable.

Indexers extract specific information from images of birth, marriage and death records, censuses, draft cards, pension records and so much more...and type that info into the web-based Family Search forms. Documents are in English and many other languages. You select the language and type of document you want to index. Tutorials, guidelines and helps are available as you work your way through batches. You may be helping to make the very records you're looking for searchable. Click on the Indexing tab in Family Search and get started.

1851 Census of Canada

The 1851 census of Canada was originally indexed and published by *FamilySearch* in 2008 but is now being re-indexed to allow linking of each entry to an image of the original census, a feature not allowed at the first instance due to contractual obligations. This new indexing effort will allow the grouping of individuals into family groups as they appear in the census, as well as including marital status. This additional information will make the index more robust, thereby increasing its facility for identifying ancestors.

Upper Canada (Ontario) is the first province to be indexed, followed by Lower Canada (Quebec). The original enumeration forms for both are almost identical, while those of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia recorded less information. Both these indexing projects will be launched separately on FamilySearch Indexing when Ontario and Quebec are completed. Of course, in 1851 these four colonies comprised all the British colonies in North America, sixteen years before Confederation. It should be noted that although these census enumerations were initiated in 1851, much of them were conducted in 1852, and the geographical limits of the colonies roughly correspond but are not exact with the post Confederation provincial boundaries.

Roots Less Traveled

A new television series co-produced by Ancestry®, to Debut on April 4th on NBC which features real people and their personal discoveries!

Free & Virtually Free Family History Classes from Vivid-Pix

www.vivid-pix.com/education

Vivid-Pix has announced the Vivid-Pix "Round Tuit!" (Get Around to It!) Online Education Program to help people during quarantine/self-isolation with classes priced for free or US\$1.99 to organize family photos and learn about their family history with the help of the world's most respected historians, genealogists, and educators. The series is hosted by Daniel Earl, the familyhistoryguy, and will be broadcast live each Tuesday and Friday evening, starting April 3rd.

Reading

From Ontario Ancestors: Township histories provide us with an understanding of the settlement and activities of where our ancestors lived. (If you look up "township history" in the Family Search Digital Library, there are over 160,000 entries!)

If you visit Hathi Trust Digital Library, they have over 14,000 Canadian entries under "township history" So many books to help us understand our ancestors' lives. Do some social history reading while you are practicing social distancing!

LiveStreams, Webinars, and More

FamilySearch Instagram Live Streams

www.familysearch.org/blog/en/familysearch-live-community/

FamilySearch Instagram Live Streams (Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11am Mountain Daylight Time), Facebook Live Streams every Wednesday at 4pm MST!

- **FamilySearch Catalog (Beginning)** Mon, Apr 13, 10:00 am
- **European Handwriting Seminar: Russian Session 1 (Beginning)**, Mon, Apr 13, 1:00 PM
- **Overview of FamilySearch (Beginning)**, Tue, Apr 14, 10:00 AM
- **European Handwriting Seminar: Russian Session 2 (Beginning)** Tue, Apr 14, 1:00 PM
- **European Handwriting Seminar: Russian Session 3 (Beginning)** Wed, Apr 15, 1:00 PM
- **European Handwriting Seminar: Russian Session 4 (Beginning)** Thu, Apr 16, 1:00 PM
- **European Handwriting Seminar: Russian Session 5 (Beginning)** Fri, Apr 17, 1:00 PM
- **English Research Seminar: Commemorating St George's Day** April 23, 2020
- **A Researcher's View of Old English Life** Thu, Apr 23, 9:00 AM
- **England Non-Conformist Church Records (Beginning)** Thu, Apr 23, 10:30 AM
- **I Give and Bequeath: English Probate Records (Beginning)** Thu, Apr 23, 1:00 PM

- **Introduction to English Heraldry (Beginning)** Thu, Apr 23, 2:30 PM
- **Finding Your Way Through Penn's Woods (Beginning)** Tue, Apr 28, 1:00 PM

Legacy Family Tree Webinar

https://news.legacyfamilytree.com/legacy_news/2020/04/free-webinars-each-day-the-entire-month-of-april.html

Free webinar each day the entire month of April. Every Monday in April is Free DNA day.

Rootstech Videos

www.rootstech.org/video-archive

Archived videos from 2015 to 2020.

The Family History Guide

<https://www.thefhguide.com/>

Free learning, research, training, & activities center for family history

Ancestry & U.S. National Archives and Records Administration

<https://blogs.ancestry.com/ancestry/2020/03/24/free-at-home-education-resources-from-ancestry-and-access-to-nearly-500m-national-archives-records/>

Helping to ease the isolation from social distancing with new connections: Ancestry has collaborated with the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration to offer temporary free access to millions of historical records and images from the federal government. Plus free online tutorials and video courses to help people get started with family tree building.

\$17.50! Utah Genealogical Association Membership!

<https://ugagenealogy.org/index.php>

Self-Isolation Membership Special UGA is offering a one-time 50% discount off on all new

individual annual memberships (digital) while self-isolation orders are in effect to support genealogists during this time. This membership would give the new member access to over 100 archived webinars from the Virtual Chapter, UGA DNA and Genealogy Pro Talk. The new member would also have access to their library of *Crossroads* and the *Genealogical Journal* online.

Home Schooling with The Family History Guide

www.thefhguide.com/home-school.html

They've added a new Home School page that collects some of the best resources in The Family History Guide into one page, for easy use in a home-schooling environment. It also contains links to additional resources to help you promote family history teaching and learning in the home.

NewspaperArchive

<https://newspaperarchive.com/>

NewspaperArchive is offering a 30-day free coupon as a gift. At any time during the 30 days be sure to cancel your subscription to prevent future billing.

Free Familytree Magazine Digital Edition

www.familytreemagazine.com

Familytree Magazine has stepped up to help us enjoy our time at home with the offer of its digital version of its March/April 2020 edition for free. You can read it onscreen or download it as a pdf.

MyHeritage Offers Free Use of their Photo Colourization Tool!

www.myheritage.com/

MyHeritage is allowing free and unlimited access to this product from March 23rd to April 23rd.

There is also a draw for people who post their colourized photos on some social media platforms

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca/locations/cloverdale-branch

We're happy to report that, since none of you can come into the branch and use our resources during our closure, we will be expanding our Family History department's email reference service. This will be available until April 22 only. And it is FREE!

What does this mean?

Family History department staff members will be able to pop into the branch and do specific look-ups for you, using ANY of our resources – all of our databases, microfilms and print collection (see below for links), and send you an email report and a scan (if item is found) of your results. For free.

What are the parameters?

Limit of one question per person per day.

Questions need to be specific. Here are some examples of what we mean by that:

- "I'm looking for a birth registration for my great-grandmother Sadie Ellen Higgs. I believe she was born in Kent, England around 1891 but I haven't been able to find a record. Can you please check your databases?"
- "I have a BC Archives death record registration number but the record image is not available online. Can you please check the microfilm?"
- "Do you have a local history book for Red Cliff, Alberta, and, if so, could you please

check to see if my family is in there? The surname is Jarvis."

- "My grandparents were divorced in BC around 1947. Can you check your BC Divorce Orders Index microfilm to get a reference so I can order the document? Their names were Jonathan Grady and Martha nee Sunderland."
- Not sure? Send your question anyway and we'll help/direct you as best we can.

Here are links to our resources:

- Our list of Family History databases, including our NEW ones, with descriptions of what they offer, are on this page (scroll down): www.surreylibraries.ca/services/family-history
- To look up books, our library catalogue: www.surreylibraries.ca/
- Our catalogue of microfilms: www.surreylibraries.ca/sites/default/files/CanadianFamilyHistoryResources.pdf

Online Resources

New FamilySearch Feature

www.familysearch.org/blog/en/explore-historical-images/

The new FamilySearch Explore Historical Images tool can help you find records about your ancestors more easily, even when their information is not text-searchable and seems to be locked inside a digital image.

Newspapers.com

www.newspapers.com/

- *Breese Journal* from Illinois in South Central Illinois dating back to 1923.

Family History Events

Online Event - Washington, DC (and Everywhere)

www.nagara.org/

- Do you want to know more about the government records that impact you and your ancestors' lives? Well, the National Association of Government Archives and Records Administrators (NAGARA) is celebrating April, which is Records and Information Management (RIM) month by giving free weekday access to webinars!

BC Historical Federation

www.bchistory.ca/conference

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

Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

www.kdgs.ca

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

Surrey Family History Centre

www.findingyourroots.ca

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

Maple Ridge Family History Group, first Wednesday of the month, 7pm on Zoom until further notice.

May 6, 2020:

June 3, 2020

July 8, 2020

August 5, 2020