

Community, Past, Present & Future



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. We respectfully acknowledge that the land on which we live, work, and play is the traditional and unceded territory of the Katzie First Nation and the Kwantlen First Nation Peoples.

We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm virtually until further notice.

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Using DNA Painter's What are the Odds?

by Andrea Lister

<https://dnainter.com>

Have you taken an autosomal DNA test and are at a loss as how to interpret the matches? At first it is a like being in an advanced science class but you have not taken the prerequisites. Fortunately, there is a lot of help out there. I have used some of the tools on the *DNA Painter* website to help sort through some of the matches.

I highly recommend watching by Jonny Perl's Legacy Family Tree webinar before trying out this tool:

https://familytreewebinars.com/download.php?webinar_id=1288

The first step is to figure out what the amount of centimorgans (cMs) that are shared with a match might mean. The *Shared cM Project* tool can help with that in a much more accurate way that the vague estimates from the DNA vendor. Enter the centimorgan amount and see the result.

Of course, there are those mystery matches—individuals who have multiple shared DNA matches but their genealogical connection is unknown. As a researcher you may have guesses as to how they fit into a particular tree but how do prove or disprove your theory? This is where the *What are the Odds?* (WATO) tool can help.

I was helping a family friend with their DNA puzzle. This man grew up in foster care. He knew from the records who his birth mother was but had no information on his father. A DNA test gave a very strong match at 1,672 cM match and the possibilities range from grandparent to aunt, uncle, half sibling... There were also several promising matches.

I had a clear question—who was JB's father? You need two or more DNA matches—the bigger the number, the better.

You need a family tree and you need some theories. I built a tree and uploaded it to WATO.

The tool ranks your hypotheses as to how likely they are and you can use the tool to suggest other possibilities that you may not have considered.



In this case, the results were definitive—hypotheses 6 is about 49,731 times more likely than the others.

Ranking of Hypotheses		
<p>Here are the calculated probabilities, with the most likely hypothesis first. A higher score means a higher likelihood that this hypothesis is correct. Read the FAQ for more about scores</p> <p>↓ View score calculation ↑ Back to top</p>		
<p>Hypothesis 6 JB is the child of Morris David W and grandchild of Jacob W</p>	<p>SCORE = 49,731</p>	<p>About 49,731 times more likely than the next hypothesis</p> <p>There could still be other more likely hypotheses. Have you overlooked any other possible places in the tree where JB could fit?</p>
<p>Hypothesis 1 JB is the child of Marlene W. and grandchild of Morris David W</p>	<p>SCORE = 1</p>	<p>Similar likelihood as the next hypothesis</p> <p>This is statistically possible, but it's not significantly more likely than other hypothesis.</p>
<p>Hypothesis 2 JB is the child of S.W. and grandchild of Morris David W</p>	<p>SCORE = 1</p>	<p>Similar likelihood as the next hypothesis</p> <p>This is statistically possible, but it's not significantly more likely than other hypothesis.</p>
<p>Hypothesis 3 JB is the child of Charles W. and grandchild of Morris David W</p>	<p>SCORE = 1</p>	<p>Possible</p> <p>This is statistically possible</p>

I had not thought this was a possibility because of the age difference of the potential parents but science does not lie. The father was forty-six and had children the same age as the mother, age twenty-one.

JB now knows who his father was and has a vast number of half-siblings and cousins.

Indigenous Peoples: Language Guidelines and Resources

The historical relationship with the first inhabitants of the lands around the world has been shaped by its imperial and colonial history. How do we, as historians, navigate the terminology and meanings associated with this subject in order to produce the most respectful works—both written and oral—that we can? Keep in mind that over time the terminology is subject to change and we will need to stay current with the shifts. Here are some local resources:

- *UBC Indigenous Peoples: Language Guidelines:* http://assets.brand.ubc.ca/downloads/ubc_indigenous_peoples_language_guide.pdf
- *Indigenous Peoples: A Guide to Terminology:* www.ictinc.ca/indigenous-peoples-a-guide-to-terminology
- *Dispelling Common Myths About Indigenous Peoples:* www.ictinc.ca/dispelling-common-myths-about-indigenous-peoples
- *First Peoples' Map of B.C.:* <https://maps.fpcc.ca/>
- Younging, Gregory. *Elements of Indigenous Style: A Guide for Writing By and About Indigenous Peoples.* Edmonton, Alberta: Brush Education, 2018.

Biographies and other Historical Content on LAC's Website

Leslie Weir, Librarian and Archivist of Canada released this statement on June 11, 2021.

Much of the content on the Library and Archives Canada (LAC) website reflects the time at which it was written. We understand that much of this outdated historical content no longer reflects today's context and may be offensive to many. The senior management and staff of LAC have been aware for some time about issues related to outdated historical content on the LAC website, and they are firm in their commitment to address these issues. Last fall, we began an initiative to review and remove or revise content in consultation with subject-matter experts and advisors, including a team of Indigenous staff members.

As this is an enormous undertaking with over 7,000 web pages and more than 100 applications involved, LAC would like to thank its users and indeed all Canadians for their patience as our relatively small staff works to create an online home for our national documentary heritage that

both this institution and the country can be proud of.

This multi-year, multi-phase project is being carried out by LAC's in-house professionals, in consultation with a diverse range of external stakeholders including First Nations, Inuit and Métis Nation community members. LAC has also dedicated funds for additional work on culturally sensitive language on its website.

With respect to the Canadian Confederation and Prime Minister biography pages, this content was immediately placed in an archived section of the LAC website as soon as issues were raised in October 2020. Each page was clearly marked with a disclaimer at the top indicating that it did not correspond to Government of Canada standards and that it included information and content that had not been updated.

The archived pages were slated for removal in late June 2021. However, in light of recent media coverage that led to additional concerns being expressed by Canadians, the removal date was moved up, and the work has now been completed.

LAC is sincerely sorry that some users were offended by content on its website. LAC acknowledges that some of its online presence may be offensive and continues to work on correcting these issues.

We recognize there will always be more work to do in this area. You have our commitment that this responsibility is taken seriously and is an ongoing institutional priority.

Canadian Passenger List Research

by Annette Fulford

Finding family in passenger lists can be very exciting. Some ancestors can be found quite easily, while others require a bit more digging to locate them. It can be daunting to have an ancestor with a common surname if you are not prepared with some basic information about your ancestor.

You can find records at [Ancestry.com](#), [FamilySearch](#), [Find My Past](#), [Library and Archives Canada](#), and even [Ellis Island](#) in New York. Some of these databases are easier to use than others.

Websites like Ancestry.com have a huge search engine which contains thousands of records. The results you want may be buried under a myriad of other records

if you search from the main page. Be prepared to dig a bit deeper by using the filters on the left-hand side bar. Click on the type of records you want results from. If possible, go directly to the database you want to search in (i.e. Canadian Passenger lists).

What you need to know

Its beneficial if you have at least some basic information about your ancestor and when they arrived before you begin.

- Year of Immigration—at least an approximate year.
- Name of your ancestor—Did they change their name sometime after their arrival?
- Approximate age
- Names and ages of family members they might have travelled with.
- Occupation in Country they are from

Where to locate the information

Here are a few places to search for more details.

- Birth, Deaths or Marriages in Canada—when was the first child born after immigrating. A death certificate may contain the number of years the person lived in Canada.
- Canadian Census records—from 1901 to 1926 they list the year of immigration for each person. Did your family arrive during this time or were they still alive when this information was collected?
- Letters or Journals—Was there any documentation of their journey like my grandmother's letter? Any letters or postcards sent to family while on their journey?
- Local Histories—may contain family stories about their immigration to Canada or when they arrived.
- Newspaper articles—obituaries or milestone celebrations may give info on how long the family lived in Canada.

Difficulty Finding Family

Here are a few reasons why you may not find them.

- Do records exist for the years you are looking for?
- Does the database you are searching in have records for the year or port you are searching?
- Did the family travel together? Or did the father arrive first and the rest of the family later?
- They may be listed by their initials, not their full name. A wife might be listed a Mrs or a baby might be listed as infant and not by their first names.
- Poor quality of microfilmed records. Faded ink on documents may make portions of the document hard to read and subsequently the person may be

listed in the database by their first name only if the surname cannot be read.

- Pages of the manifest may be missing from the original record that was filmed
- Are the departure records in another language? Make sure you know the name of the country they are from in that language. (i.e. Hungary is Ungarn in German)

Locating Additional Info About Their Sailing

- Newspaper articles about the sailing at the Port of departure and arrival – was it smooth sailing or did anything eventful happen during the journey?
- Does the sailing information from the manifest match the transcribed version you found? Did they really land at St. John's, Newfoundland or St. John, New Brunswick?
- What can you learn about the sailing from other passengers on board? Was there any high-profile people on board? Did anyone give birth while on board? Was anyone buried at sea? Were any families sent to the quarantine station? If so, why?
- Once you have found their arrival in Canada, are there any records available from the Port of departure? (i.e. Hamburg or UK, Outgoing Passenger Lists)
- Did they sail directly to Canada, or did they stop at any country on their journey to Canada? How long did they stay?

If you have difficulties, try using additional databases. The indexed records might be more accurate, giving you a chance to find family. These are just a few of the many ways to help you learn more about your ancestor's journey to Canada.

While We Are Apart...

by *Brenda L Smith*

Updated information for the Whitlock Family Association

Email: peter.whitlock@one-name.org

New website: <http://whitlock.one-name.net/>

Old website: www.whitlockfamilyassociation.com

Chat/questions: (Skype) whitlockfamilyassoc (Email to book a chat time)

As the pandemic moves through its paces this summer we continue to meet electronically to share the stories of our own research achievements. L. Roslyn Mellish has been a valued member of the Maple Ridge Family History Group since 2010. Here

Ros outlines the process of researching her great grandfather's family.

My Great Grandfather's Family

When my mother entrusted the family history to me, she informed me that despite her best efforts she was unable to trace my father's family past Durham, Ontario. She said it was up to me to discover where the Parrott family came from in England. Fortunately, a lot of groundwork had been done by my father's first cousin, Agnes. Using Agnes's information, I found my Great-Grandfather John Parrott's death certificate of 1896 which listed his birthplace as Barnstable, England. Apparently, Barnstable is how the name of Barnstaple, Devon is pronounced. I was able to confirm John Parrott and his family's presence in Canadian Censuses from 1891, 1871, and 1861 but couldn't locate him in 1851 in either Canada, England or Wales. I also found John's youngest brother, Edwin's death record in Collingwood, Ontario. After further effort I stumbled across my Great-Grandmother Parrott's listing in Familysearch.org. She was listed as Eliz. Parrott and her husband was listed as I. Parrott in Hamilton, Ontario in the 1851/1852 Canada West Census. He was a Tinsmith by trade (as was my Great-Grandfather) and their next-door neighbours were the John Rowland family. I knew that Elizabeth's maiden name was Rowland and that the Rowland family had lived near them in Durham, Ontario for many years.

While I was searching for John Parrott in England in 1851, I had found a likely Parrott family living in Derby, Derbyshire on Findmypast.co.uk in the 1851 census for England, Wales. The census lists Ann Parrott as the Head of the Household and she was born circa 1796 in Salisbury, Wiltshire. All of the children listed were born in Barnstaple, Devon. Here was a connection to my John Parrott who according to his death certificate, was born there also. As well, the youngest child was Edwin Parrott and his age fit that of my Great-Uncle Edwin of Collingwood, Ontario. The mother, Ann, had listed her occupation as Domestic Servant, Samuel was Shoemaker, Jane was a Cotton Winder, Caroline was a Silk Winder, Merran (Miriam?) was a Cotton Winder and Edwin was a Factory Hand. A letter written by a descendant of Edwin Parrott of Collingwood, ON said that the family were weavers by trade. If this was my family it didn't matter that there was no

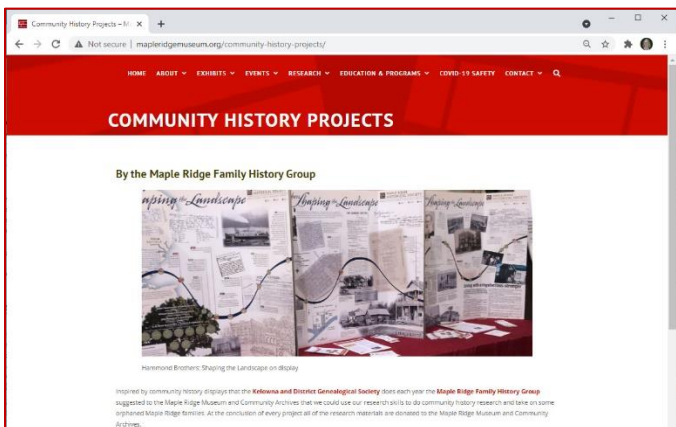
John listed in 1851 because by then my John Parrott was already in Canada or on his way there.

Later I was able to find a John Parratt in Derby, Derbyshire, England in the 1841 census on FamilySearch.org. John's family in 1841 had the same names as the Parrott family from Barnstaple in the 1851 Census. There were additional people listed as well, a father, William, and a daughter Louisa. I was sure I had found the right Parrott family. Some years later I had my DNA done and was incredibly pleased to find that I had a distant cousin who was descended from Louisa Parrott. This was the same Louisa Parrott who had married in Derby and whose father was William Parrott. I finally felt that I had successfully answered my mother's challenge and traced my Great-Grandfather's family to Barnstaple, Devon, England.

Launch of Community History Projects' Pages

Sharing stories of forgotten voices is an important part of keeping the history of a community alive. Sharing stories of a community's history and its people create connections for its current residents.

The Maple Ridge Family History Group is excited to launch the Family History Group's Community History Projects' corner of the Maple Ridge Museum and Community Archives' website and share our work in a new way.



Read more: <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/launch-of-community-history-projects/>

Check out our past projects: <http://mapleridgemuseum.org/community-history-projects/>

Technology Tips: Passwords

By Darren Durupt

Passwords. Such a simple word that conjures so much emotion, mostly negative. Most of us wish there were a better alternative. I assure you information technology professionals feel the same. Frequently when I discuss passwords with people, I can see their blood pressure launch straight up, and I completely understand, but password management is something everyone should take seriously.

It seems we need a password for everything and managing them all can be overwhelming. Unfortunately, passwords will be with us for quite a while longer, so it is imperative we develop an approach to manage them. We have all heard the suggestions; make it difficult, but easy to remember because you should NEVER write them down. Is longer better, or more complex?

The answer is a bit of everything — that is part of what makes password management so challenging.

I assure you there is a way to develop your own password algorithm. Try to make it relevant to the account you are using and substitute complex characters. Association is an excellent way to remember complex things. Convert a lyric from your favourite song or quote from a book. For example: the first line from "Jailhouse Rock" combined with Elvis' date of death becomes Twt@pitcj1977. Also, remember not every password really needs to be impregnable. Some sites just are not that high risk.

Here are a couple sites that may help you with password strategies:

<https://www.pcmag.com/how-to/simple-tricks-to-remember-seriously-secure-passwords>

<http://www.makeuseof.com/tag/use-a-password-management-strategy-to-simplify-your-life/>

You'll no doubt notice that the sites referenced above suggest using a password manager, and that is certainly a valid option. A good password manager can be a valuable tool to have, but they do come with their own issues. Perhaps, a future article. I do believe it is possible to develop a strategy for managing all your passwords without a password vault.

Whatever your approach, just remember, the point is not attempting to make them un-hackable, that is simply not possible. The point is to introduce enough variation in your passwords to make it as much work as possible to reduce the risk.

Online Resources

Ancestry—Library Edition

Ancestry and ProQuest have once again extended remote access to Ancestry.com. Library card holders can use Ancestry.com at home until December 31, 2021.

Family History Library Lookup Service

<https://www.familysearch.org/blog/en/library-lookup-service-fhl/>

Upon request, staff and volunteers at the library will look up specific records in their collections that cannot be viewed online. Since Library Lookup is not a research service, people will need to identify the specific record from FamilySearch.org that they need to see.

A Map of Historical Scottish Counties

www.familytreemagazine.com/heritage/scottish/scottish-counties-map/

This Scottish counties map will help you determine which of the 34 historical divisions your ancestor's hometown lay in.

Free Ancestor Immigration Forms for Genealogy

www.familytreemagazine.com/free-ancestor-immigration-forms/

These free forms are designed for transcribing the names of, and information about, early immigrants you find on customs lists.

Flax Growers List of 1796

www.failteromhat.com/flax1796.php

The Fáilte Romhat Flaxgrower's Database can be searched either by county or by surname. The results include the civil parish of residence. Free to search.

Scottish Roman Catholic Registers

www.findmypast.co.uk/articles/scotland-roman-catholic-parish-list

FindMyPast have added over half a million Roman Catholic records from Scotland (mostly the Archdiocese of Glasgow).

Glasgow Absent Voters List, 1920

www.glasgowfamilyhistory.org.uk/ExploreRecords/Pages/Voters-Rolls.aspx

A register of those who were absent from home but eligible to vote during the First World War and contains the names of more than 13,000 men and women who lived in Glasgow.

Family History Events

Abbotsford British Columbia Family History Centre

https://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Abbotsford_British_Columbia_Family_History_Centre

Free online webinars

- **Using the BIG Genealogy Sites: MyHeritage & Geneanet** with M. Diane Rogers, Tuesday, July 6, 2021, 7:00 pm
- **Casting the Net: Seek Your Ancestors on the Internet** with Brenda L. Smith, Thursday, September 23, 2021, 7:00 pm

Scottish Indexes

www.scottishindexes.com

- **Learn How to Trace Your Family History.** Tracing Scottish Women; Merchant and Trades House Records; Tracing Scottish Ancestors before 1855; The Stones of Seafield: exploring monumental inscriptions in Edinburgh's Seafield Cemetery; Overcoming Brickwalls: Case Studies; Sharing Shetland Surnames; Genealogy Q & A.

July 10, 2021. Free event through Zoom and Facebook.

BYU Family History

<https://fh.lib.byu.edu/classes-and-webinars/>

- The BYU Library is offering virtual Sunday classes for anyone interested in family history. They also offer webinars, instructional videos, and tutorials.

BECOME A MEMBER

The Family History Group is a standing committee of the Maple Ridge Historical Society and we encourage, but do not require, that our members join the society.

We meet on the first Wednesday of the month, 7pm on Zoom until further notice. Email us at: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com for information on how to join the meeting.

July 7, 2021: Brick walls—Do You Need Some Help?

Consider doing a short presentation for us to better understand the problem or tell us your research dilemma and you might just get some direction! Or share how you successfully managed to break through a family history brick wall.

August 4, 2021: Summer Mini Challenge—"What's In a Name?"

Review your research to determine the strangest/most unusual name you have in your family history. The challenge—do you know why your ancestor was given such a name?

Have something to share? There's always time to hear about an exciting new find or an interesting family story.