

Family History Newsletter

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The Family History Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

**Find us on the web:
www.mapleridgemuseum.org**

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Subscriptions are a benefit of membership in the Maple Ridge Historical Society. Please send membership applications, with \$20 to the Maple Ridge Historical Society.

Requesting Interlibrary Loans

By Annette Fulford

I have been researching for quite a few years and I've run across a variety of records that I would not normally have access to except by interlibrary loan. Interlibrary loans can be as simple as requesting a book from another branch of our library system. But when the book you want is not available at your local library, it can be requested from another library system in Canada.

In fact most of the records I have requested have come from other library systems such as the Library and Archives Canada or the Vancouver Public Library. Even rare or obscure books can be ordered provided they are in good condition and available for loan. In such cases, though, you will most likely be asked to view it in library only.

Interlibrary loans are not just for books either. Most of the information I have requested in the past five years has been on microfilm, including Ontario wills, war diaries, Immigration Branch records, and nine rolls of the Saint John Evening Times and Star newspaper to name a few. I even had one report that came on microfiche. Remember if you request a microfilm into your library it must have a microform viewer; ideally one with a

printer. Not all libraries have them.

The search engine at the Library and Archives Canada <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/lac-bac/search-recherche/all-tout.php?Language=eng> is the one I use most. The results will tell you if the record is in the LAC catalogue only or whether it is also available in Canadian libraries.

When I find a book or record that I want to view, I print a copy of the information and take it to my local library where I make a request for it at the reference information desk. It takes between 2 and 6 months for it to arrive and you have two weeks to view the information, unless you ask for an extension.

New Military Record Uncovered in Switzerland

By 2014 the world will have digital access to a remarkable archive held at The Red Cross Museum in Geneva. Historian Peter Barton, commissioned by the Australian government to research a mass grave on a World War I battlefield at Fromelles in France, discovered a remarkable historic archive.

The card indexes and registers were compiled by the Red Cross between 1914 and 1918; while acting as a go-between, logging, and passing on information to 30

countries drawn into the conflict. The details include whereabouts of prisoners, their condition or injuries at the time of capture, and the location of field burials.

Barton found the original indexes; thousands upon thousands of cards; dozens of registers. Some of the records refer to other mass graves, with exact directions as to where they were dug, and the identities of the soldiers who were buried. Where possible, the registers include home addresses and next of kin.

The Red Cross are already working to bring the archive into the computer age making sure "that we preserve the original records." The digitization process will begin in Autumn 2009, and will cost around four million Swiss Francs. Expert assistance will be solicited from many countries and volunteers will be welcome.

The careful record-keeping extended through World War II, and on to more recent conflicts. At present the facility has no resources to make these later records available at present.

New Online Resources

GenealogyBank.com Offers Free Access to Millions of Military Records

"Memorial Day is a day to stop and reflect on the veterans in our family" says Genealogy Director for NewsBank, inc., Tom Kemp. "The military records are a perfect example of the unique and valuable content you'll find

at GenealogyBank.com and now for a limited time we are making the list of officers that served in the Revolutionary War free at www.genealogybank.com/free."

Canadian Civil Service Salaries Published Online

Familyrelatives.com launched over 200,000 Canadian Civil Service records for the period 1872-1918.

www.familyrelatives.com.

Family History Events

Maple Ridge Family History Group – Maple Ridge Library

- **Computer Lab Time: Focus on Specific Online Resources**, Wednesday, September 2 & November 4, 2009 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm. Fee: Free.

Cloverdale Library

5642-176A Street, Surrey offers free orientations the 1st Saturday of every month 9:30 – 10:30 am.

Fall 2009

- **First Steps on the Ancestral Trail** with Brenda Smith, Saturday, September 12, 2009, 11:00 am – 12:30 pm. Fee: \$10.00.
- **Start Searching Your Family History - a Beginners' Workshop in 5 Lessons** with Brenda Smith, Mondays: September 21, October 5 & 26, November 9 & 23: 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Fee \$100.00.

- **Ancestry Library Edition and Heritage Quest: Tips and Tools**. Saturday, October 6, 2007, 10:30 am – Noon. Fee: \$10.00.
- **Digging up the Dead on All Hallow's Eve: Finding Interments, Headstones and Obituaries**. Saturday, October 31, 2009, 10:30 am – 11:30 am. Fee: \$10.00.
- **United Kingdom Roots** with Chris Longley. Saturday, November 14, 2009, 10:30 am – Noon. Fee: \$10.00.
- **Family History Show and Tell!** Participants will be given up to 10 minutes to have the floor for Show and Tell. Saturday, November 21, 10:30 am – Noon. No Charge.

Pre-registration is required – please check the Genealogy section of the Surrey Public Library website

www.spl.surrey.bc.ca or call us at 604-598-7328 for further information and updates.

Burnaby Village Museum

6501 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby BC V5G 3T6 24-hour Information: 604.293.6501 Program Registration: 604.293.6500 <http://www.burnabyvillagemuseum.ca>

- **Super Sleuths Genealogical Workshop II: Beginning Your Family History Workshop**, with Diane Rogers, Thursday, June 18, 2009: 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Fee: \$10.50 (Registration code 175171).