

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.

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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.

New Zealand Birth, Death and Marriage Records

By Andrea Lister

A new website has just been launched that provides online access to New Zealand's historical birth, death, and marriage records.

The Births Death and Marriage Historical Records website, at www.bdmhistoricalrecords.identityservices.govt.nz/, provides access to information about:

- Births that occurred at least 100 years ago
- Stillbirths that occurred at least 50 years ago
- Marriages and eventually Civil Unions that occurred 80 years ago
- Deaths that occurred at least 50 years ago or the deceased's date of birth was at least 80 years ago.

As my 1st cousin 4x removed, Edgeworth Richard USSHER, emigrated from Hamilton, Ontario, Canada to New Zealand in the 1860s I thought I would try out the site.

To use the site, users must enter a family name and a search from date or a registration number into the search box. Searching is free so I did a search for births with the family name Ussher and got a page of results ranging from 1873-1922. The results are very useful for research purposes

as they list the given name of the baby, and the mother and father's given names.

I did a similar search for death records and received 4 pages of USSHER deaths. The results list family name, given name, and age at death.

My marriage search proved to be a little more challenging. There seems to be no ability to enter wildcards into your search but the frequently asked questions section of the site suggests putting the names for marriage searches in both the bride's and groom's fields.

I knew Edgeworth Richard USSHER was married in 1874 so I limited my search to 01/01/0874 – 01/01/1875. I put USSHER and USHER into the groom's family name field and came up blank. So I tried the same with the bride's field and found Edgeworth R. USHER married in 1874.

If you want to purchase a copy of the record you have a choice of a certificate, which is the legal official document, or printout, which is a copy of the image of the registration usually used for research purposes. The records are \$26.00NZ, approximately \$16.70 Canadian and can be purchased by credit card.

At first try this site has all ready proved a useful tool for my family tree.

Tips for Using Ancestry Library Edition

By Annette Fulford

Now that the Fraser Valley Regional Library has Ancestry Library Edition (for in library use only), it can be daunting to have access to such a myriad of resources from the United States, United Kingdom (UK) and Canada. Here are a few tips I have used to make it easier to locate records for my family.

One of the first things I do is make sure to click on *Exact Matches Only* on the front page of Ancestry Library Edition. If you don't then you get thousands of results and most of them have nothing to do with the name you are looking for.

If you find that the surname you are looking for is very common, try searching selected records only. Choose a record based on the information you have already learned about your family. If you know that your family is in a specific location by 1901, then check the 1901 Census for Canada or the UK (or the 1900 census if your family is from the US). On occasion I have found that searching a specific record yields additional results that did not show up when searching from Ancestry's main search engine.

Sometimes it can be hard to print clear image of the record you have just located. It all depends on how much blank space is surrounding the image that you wish to print. If the record is a census image, you have to make

sure that you change the page orientation of what you are printing under print preview. Just click on the page icons for landscape or portrait.

If you are not able to print the image so that you can read it, then take advantage of blank census forms that Ancestry has online. Just click on Charts and Forms at the top of the page or on the right hand corner of the census images you are viewing. In order to help you save time you can print the blank forms off in advance at <http://www.ancestry.com/trees/charts/canadacensus.aspx>. They have a wide variety of blank forms and charts on the right hand side.

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

- **Dave Obee Genealogy Seminars**, Saturday, May 2, 2009: 10:15 am – 4:30 pm.

Dave will present four lectures on genealogy, including

- The Error of our Ways;
- Newspapers in Family History Research;
- Tracing Forward to Find Distant Cousins; and
- Destination Canada (Immigration).

For more information, go to the AGS website at www.abbygs.ca.

Cloverdale Library

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

Winter 2009

- **Tracing Your Australian Connections: How to Locate an Australian in Your Family** with David Berry, Saturday, May 9, 2009: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm. Fee \$10.00.

Classes fill up quickly; if the course is full, put your name on the waiting list for the next available class.

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).

Vancouver Public Library

- **Hands-on Wiki Training Workshops: Chinese-Canadians: Profiles from a Community**, Monday, March 23, 2009: 9:30 am-1:00 pm, or Saturday, March 28, 2009: 9:30 am-1:00 pm, or Tuesday, March 31, 2009: 1:30 pm-5:00 pm. Registration is required. Call 604-331-3716.