

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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Submissions to this publication are welcome. Copy deadline is the 7th of each month. The publisher will take all reasonable care but will not be responsible for the loss of any manuscript or other material.

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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.

Unexpected Maple Ridge Connection

By Andrea Lister

I was not expecting to find a family tree member while working on the Maple Ridge Museum website. I knew that one of my dad's uncle's had lived here for a while in the 1960s but was unaware of any connections on my mom's side. To my surprise I opened up the folder from Val for Port Haney to see one named DEWOLF.

I read the file with interest and learnt that John DeWolf was born in Nova Scotia as were my DeWolf ancestors. Oddly, John's son Frank was an avid archer as am I, so my curiosity increased as to whether they fit into my tree.



P08097 – Frank DeWolf

Picture used courtesy of the Maple Ridge Museum & Community Archives

The write-up on the DeWolf family, www.mapleridgemuseum.org/08_community/04/08_04_06_14_de_wolf.html, provided an approximate date of birth, when John arrived in Haney, and his wife's name. Death dates were in the write-up.

I submitted a request to the museum through their Information Request Form, www.mapleridgemuseum.org/00_main/00_02informationform.html, for obituary information. I received the indexing information for the Haney Gazette with the date, page number, and category.

And so, off to the Maple Ridge Library to read the microfilm. I found the obituaries for all three. The write-up for John DeWolf stated that his family came from Wolfville – the same as the DeWolfs in my tree. My next step was BC Vital Statistics: <http://search.bcbarchives.gov.bc.ca/sn-2F4654E/gbsearch/Births,Marriages,Deaths>. I got copies of both the death and marriage records for John DeWolf from the microfilm at VPL. The marriage record lists John Rounsefell and his wife Margaret DeWolf Rounsefell, my great-grandparents, as witnesses. I must be on the right track!

Both the death and marriage records name Edwin and Eliza DeWolf as John's parents. I have had no luck tracking down a

death, marriage, or birth record for Edwin. However, I have found a family tree on Rootsweb that lists Thomas Andrew Strange DeWolf as Edwin's father. Thomas is my 4th great-grand uncle which makes John William DeWolf my second cousin 4 times removed.

So, surprisingly, I have roots in Maple Ridge on both sides of my family. I hope to find the documents to prove the connection and would also be delighted to find living relations.

Canada's Top Archivist Retires

Excerpt from Whig Standard

<http://www.thewhig.com/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=1537807>

Ian Wilson never stopped following the paper trail.

The outgoing national archivist of Canada, who was educated and started his career at Queen's University, still believes in the importance of paper documents and records.

At the same time, he acknowledges that the ongoing digitization of such records puts them before many more people than he could have imagined when he began his career in Kingston in 1966.

"What I am delighted about is that over the course of my career, I have seen us take these things that are fragile and couldn't stand that much handling and we have digitized them and put them out where everyone can see them,"

said Wilson, who retires as the country's top archivist, and first national archivist and librarian, today.

"That said, only about 1% of Canada's documentary history is online where people can see it, and we have a whole generation who believe that, if they can't call it up on their computer or on their BlackBerry, it doesn't exist."

Wilson, who studied history at Queen's and stumbled into a job at the archives almost by accident, says many of the national archives' efforts to put its collection in front of Canadians had their seeds planted during his time in Kingston.

Henderson Directories

<http://peel.library.ualberta.ca/index.html>

The Peel's Prairie Provinces website has a number of historical directories online under Featured Collections. They include the following places Edmonton, Calgary, Lethbridge, Medicine Hat, Winnipeg, Brandon and the Northwest Territories.

New At Ancestry

- Border Crossings: From U.S. to Canada, 1908-1935
- Vancouver, British Columbia Passenger Lists – Chinese Arrivals, 1906-1912
- Irish Canadian Emigration Records, 1823-1849

Family History Events

Cloverdale Library

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

Spring 2009

- **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.

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

- **Using FamilySearch**, Wednesday, June 17th, 10:30 am – 2:30 pm, Level 7 Computer Training Room. Fee: Free. Registration is required. Call 604-331-3716.