

# 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](http://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.

### Family History Group Meetings

The June meeting will be June 6, 2012.

## Searching Family Tree Search at Ancestry or Rootsweb

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*By Annette Fulford*

When trying to locate information on a specific family tree it is helpful to have details gathered by family members, or a previous generation, to aid in your research. I was fortunate to learn of several genealogists in my family from different eras. And when contacted, their children were able to pass on information to me about what their relative had found.

There are Public member [http://search.ancestry.ca/search/d\\_b.aspx?dbid=1030](http://search.ancestry.ca/search/d_b.aspx?dbid=1030) and Private members trees [http://search.ancestry.ca/search/d\\_b.aspx?dbid=1006](http://search.ancestry.ca/search/d_b.aspx?dbid=1006) at Ancestry. However, you have to subscribe to Ancestry to search them; trees are not an option for those who use Ancestry Library Edition.

The public member trees show all details, including whether there is a document from Ancestry attached to the entry. For the private member trees it says that the name you searched is located in the private files but it gives you the option of sending that person a message for more information.

The family trees at Rootsweb are located in their database WorldConnect <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com>

and are free to search. You also have the option of contacting the person for sources or additional information. Be sure to check when the tree was last updated to see if it's current.

While helping another person learn more about their family history, I was able to locate a couple of online family trees at Ancestry. While some of the information was correct, some was definitely not. I saw one family tree where a person reportedly died before their marriage date. You could tell that other people had downloaded the same family tree because they had the same information wrong.

I had previously viewed a few family trees for my Thomson and Elliot families, originally from Scotland, but this time I decided to look up some of my European-born ancestors to see what I could find. I started with my Kaufman family.

My grandmother was the eldest of five children in my Kaufman family line from Hungary. I found the births for all of the children in the Zichydorf church records I received a few years ago, but didn't find further info on two of the children. What happened to Maria, born in 1894 or the only son Mihaly, born in 1896? After a quick search online and I found the date of their deaths listed in a family tree at Ancestry. After writing down the

info I found, I was able to use my DVD of church records to verify the date of death for both children.

The original record showed Mihaly died in 1901 at age five. He was reportedly was scalded by hot water and died of his burns. I was able to verify this in the death record. His cause of death started with "egesi" which translates into burns or combustion in English.

Maria died in October 1911 at the age of 17, a few short days after her birthday. This was exactly six months after her sister Magdalena left for Canada. I was not yet able to make out the cause of death for her.

Remember to use the family trees posted online as a guide, not as a definitive source. Check out those who have sources listed and be sure to verify anything you find with original records, wherever possible.

## Cemetery Aps

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### Find a Grave

<http://sites.google.com/site/findgrave/>

The Find Grave Android application is an application that allows you to gain access to the *Find A Grave* database while on the go. Search for people & cemeteries and navigate to them using your phone.

### BillionGraves

[www.billiongraves.com](http://www.billiongraves.com)

Take a picture of the tombstone with your GPS-enabled

smartphone with the BillionGraves iPhone/Android camera app. Then upload the photos. Login to BillionGraves.com and add the transcription.

## Online Resources

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### War of 1812

<http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/microform-digitization/index-e.html>

You can now access 73,000 new images of War of 1812 records on the LAC website. Use the Microform Digitization research tool:

- Board of Claims for War of 1812 losses, 1813–1848, Series RG19 E5A
- Lower Canada militia nominal rolls and paylists, Series RG9 1A7
- Upper Canada militia returns, nominal rolls, and paylists, Series RG9 1B7

## Family History Events

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### Abbotsford Genealogical Sociey

- **Wills** with Chris Longley, Tuesday, May 22, 6:00pm. Fee: Free.
- **AGS Spring Seminar presents Dave Obee**, June 16, 2012 from 8:30 am – 4:00 pm. Cascade Community Church, 35190 Delair Road Abbotsford, BC. For more information, go to [www.abbygs.ca/2012%20spring%20seminar.htm](http://www.abbygs.ca/2012%20spring%20seminar.htm)

### Maple Ridge Library

- **Strange But True: Stories From Our Past** with Val

Patenaude, Wednesday, Jun 13, 2:00pm–3:30pm. Fee: Free.

### St. Andrews Heritage Church

- **Family History Workshop** with the Maple Ridge Family History Group, Saturday, Jun 23, 11:00am–3:00pm. Fee: Free for members. \$2 for non-members.

### Surrey Libraries

5642-176A Street, Surrey offers free orientations the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of every month 10:00 – 10:50am.

- **Social Networking 101 for Family History** with M. Diane Rogers, Saturday, May 12, 10:30–Noon. Fee: \$10:00.

Pre-registration is required – please check the Family History section of the Surrey Libraries website [www.spl.surrey.bc.ca](http://www.spl.surrey.bc.ca) or call us at 604-598-7328.

### Vancouver Public Library

- **Lynne Bowen: The Story of Italians in British Columbia** with Lynne Bowen, Tuesday May 22, 2012, 7:00 pm–8:30 pm. Central Library. Registration required. Fee: Free.
  - **British Columbia's Road to Gold: The story of the Cariboo Wagon Road in 1864**, Friday, May 25, 2012, 3:00 pm–4:30 pm. Central Library. Registration required. Fee: Free.
  - **Irish Genealogy**, Monday June 4, 2012, 2:00 pm–3:30 pm. Central Library. Fee: Free
- For more information please contact Fine Arts and History at 604-331-3716.