

Family History Newsletter



Editors: Annette Fulford, Andrea Lister
Contributors: Brenda Smith

Production: Val Patenaude, Allison White
Distribution: Brenda L. Smith

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The Family History group supports members in researching their family history research. Members have ancestors from around the globe.

They meet on the first Wednesday of each month at 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.

Email: mrfamilyhistory@gmail.com

Plan Your Summer Encounters with History

by Brenda Smith

More fun with family and friends, you can plot a course for your summer history adventure close to home or farther afield.



Brenda with the World's Largest Beaver (Erica Williams)

A couple of summers ago, I decided on a trip to my several old stomping grounds. I would travel from home in Maple Ridge, British Columbia to a family history conference in Calgary, Alberta via the Cariboo Gold Fields and the Peace River Country in about three weeks. My partners in crime, Erica and Marg, were up for the challenge.

The goal of the journey was to reconnect with friends and family, and introduce my travel companions to a new view of my world.

The first leg of the journey took Erica and me from home to Quesnel, via Highway 97. While we didn't include Barkerville Historic Town and Park this time, we visited Elizabeth at the Quesnel and District Museum and the City's Historic Cemetery.

A short hop north brought us to The Exploration Place in Prince George. We shared family history with my cousin Marina, had dinner with Caroline of the Prince George Community Heritage Commission, spent an evening with Abbey, an RCMP officer from Fort St. James, and rendezvoused with Marg for the Peace River lap of our adventure.

Continuing on Highway 97 through the Rockies, we took a paleontology stop just east of Pine Pass. Our days in the Peace River Country included jaunts to Fort St. John and the North Peace Museum, The Church of the Good Shepherd and the family plot in Taylor, the Pouce Coupe Museum and the Northern Alberta Railway Trestle, the Rolla Pub and cemetery.



Marg and Erica fossil hunting at Pine Pass. (Brenda Smith)

Dawson Creek, my birthplace, yielded visits with cousins and my Uncle Ed. We viewed the gas field bustle, Bear Mountain Wind farm, and tourists

launching journeys up the Alaska Highway from Mile "0". Before Marg left, we learned to make elephants from hotel towels, and how to jaywalk. We observed conservation work on the Bay Tree Community Hall, part of Walter Wright Pioneer Village. And discovered old friend Theresa from Chase working in the South Peace Historical Society Archives.

My childhood included many trips to Alberta. The drive to Calgary took us through Beaverlodge (world's largest beaver), Wembley's Currie Dinosaur Museum, Lacombe cemetery, Beiseker Museum. Red Deer Valley historic sites, Aquilla Antiquarian Books, and the Calgary Military Museums.

My sister wasn't home, so our departure from Calgary ended at Revelstoke where Catherine gave us a backstage tour of the Revelstoke Museum. Now back in BC and deep in the Rockies, we followed the Trans Canada to Salmon Arm and Kamloops. The last part of the drive home, bringing us out of the past and into our future, was diverted by forest fires from Merritt across Highway 8 to Spences Bridge and down the Fraser Canyon. We arrived home in time to greet visitors from Japan who wanted to see everything right around Maple Ridge.

Online Resources

British Newspaper Archive

www.britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk/

- Good Morning
- Weekly Freeman's Journal
- Bournemouth Guardian

Occupation Resources

- **Index of Occupations**, <http://rmhh.co.uk/occup/index.html>, A to Z index of old names for occupations and meanings.
- **Old Occupations & Terms**, www.familytreeassociation.org/a-c.html, The English Family Tree Association's index of occupations gleaned from census returns and publications.
- **Cyndi's List – Occupation Resources**, www.cyndislist.com/occupations/general/?page=2, Links to resources for occupations.

Findmypast

www.findmypast.com

- England & Wales, Roman Catholic Records
- Staffordshire Registers & Records
- Lancashire Registers & Records
- Shropshire Registers & Records
- Queensland, Justices of The Peace 1857-1957
- Queensland, Register of Land Sold 1842-1859

Family History Events

Abbotsford Genealogical Society

<http://abbygs.ca/>

- **WikiTree: Genealogy Collaboration** with Sharon Syrette, May 17, 2018, 1:30pm. Studio 2, The Reach, 32388 Veterans Way, Abbotsford, BC, Abbotsford, BC. Fee: Free

British Columbia Historical Federation

www.bchistory.ca/conference

- **History. Springs. Eternal. the 2018 BCHF Conference.** Do you enjoy learning about the history of BC? May 24–27,

2018. Nakusp, BC. Fee: \$250 for full conference, includes lectures, welcome reception, movie night, AGM, Media Panel, book fair, BCHF Book Prize Gala, Sunday cemetery walk, downtown heritage tour.

Cloverdale Library

www.surreylibraries.ca

Register a 604-598-7327 or by email: familyhistory@surrey.ca.

Limited parking until further notice, parking is unavailable at Cloverdale Library due to construction.

- **Orientations**, Saturdays, 10:00-10:50 am, Sept 8, 2018. Pre-registration recommended. Fee: free.
- **Fun Family History Fridays**, Fri June 1, July 6, Aug 3, and Sept 7, 2018, 2:30–4:00 pm.
- **"Ted and Louie's Wedding": Building the Context for a Family Event** with Brenda L. Smith, June 2 2018, 10:30am. Fee: \$10.
- **Start Searching Your Family History** with Brenda L. Smith, 5 Tuesday: Sept 25 – Nov 20, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. Fee: \$100 for the series.

Kelowna & District Genealogical Society

www.kdgs.ca

- **Harvest Your Family Tree Conference**, Sept 28–30, 2018. Details later at Kelowna and District Genealogical Society. \$95 for Saturday conference, additional Friday workshops available.

Maple Ridge Family History Group, Wednesday, June 6, 2018, 7pm at the Maple Ridge Library.